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LI HUNG-CHANG AS A PEACE NEGOTIATOR.

There is an impression among foreigners in the Far East that because His Excellency LI HUNG-CHANG, Viceroy of Chihli, has undertaken the conduct of negotiations with Japan the result will be an early conclusion of the war. It is urged that the veteran Viceroy is a skilful diplomatist, that he has had great experience in the conduct of ticklish negotiations, and that he has invariably brought them to a successful issue. After Sir THOMAS WADE had quitted Peking in 1876 the astute LI managed to arrest the British Minister's somewhat lingering footsteps at Chefoo and there induce him to accept the terms embodied in the Chefoo Convention. It was LI HUNG-CHANG who, when hostilities between France and China had gone far enough to justify the name of war, succeeded in 1884 in concluding a convention of peace with Captain FOURNIER, preliminary to the treaty negotiated by M. PATENOTRE in the following summer by which that abortive and undignified quarrel was officially terminated. The Viceroy of Chihli has also, during his long tenure of power in the metropolitan province, negotiated many other Treaties, in most of which he has displayed much native craft. He is therefore peculiarly fitted to act as China's Representative in the negotiations for peace with Japan. It does not follow, however, that, because he has been successful in his diplomacy with the representatives of Western Powers, his efforts in the present emergency will be also crowned with success. He will have to meet another opponent, to face a quite different situation.

It is possible that LI HUNG-CHANG may still retain the confidence of the Imperial Council, though that is extremely doubtful. He was stripped of his honours for his failure to conduct the war to a successful issue, he has been denounced by some of the Censors, and he is widely condemned by public opinion—such as it is—in the Central Kingdom. But either he is still necessary to the Imperial Government or they wish to divorce him from his seat of power at Tientsin and at the same time make him responsible for concluding a convention that will secure unexpectedly favourable terms for China or throw on him the onus of signing an agreement that will be terribly burdensome and humiliating to her. If indeed the great Viceroy's services are absolutely essential to the Chinese Government, and they are compelled to give him a free hand in the belief that he is the man best qualified in China to secure terms consonant with the honour and dignity of a great empire then is he beyond the reach of censorious attack. But if one main object to be achieved by his employment as Envoy to Japan be to render him responsible for every degradation which has come upon his country then his acceptance of the post is rash and perilous to a degree. No better way of drawing his sting could be devised than his despatch to Japan while another official is seated in his viceregal yamen at Tientsin. It is a coincidence, which under such circumstances might appear sinister, that the recall of his brother LI HAN-CHANG from the viceroyalty of the Two Kwang is simultaneously announced. This step is rendered the more suspicious from the statement that the Viceroy of the Two Kwang will probably not be summoned to Peking, but will be allowed to retire to his native province. With the disappearance of several of LI HUNG-CHANG's trusted satellites from the scene, this would leave a clear field for the speedy abolition of his influence both at Tientsin and Peking.

We have intimated our doubts as to the success of any attempt to negotiate terms of peace in Japan. The insincerity of China as shown in her failure to properly accredit the Envoys CHANG and SHAO cannot fail to prejudice her cause in Japan, and it would task all the diplomatic powers of LI HUNG-CHANG to remove the evil impression created by that stroke of bad policy. Count ITO very tersely summed up the situation in his speech to the Chinese Envoys at Hiroshima when he declined to open negotiations with them. After stating that he considered the defective powers given them was "a sure indication" that the Government of China is not really "solicitous for peace," he goes on to add that the instrument was "destitute of nearly all those qualities which are regarded as essential to such powers; it even fails to indicate the subject upon which your Excellencies are to negotiate; it does not authorise your Excellencies to conclude or sign anything; it is silent on the subject of the subsequent Imperial ratification of your Excellencies' acts. In short, it would seem that the authority which has been conferred upon your Excellencies would be completely fulfilled by your reporting to your Government what my colleague and myself might have to say." No wonder the Japanese Government refused to be played with, and it cannot excite surprise if they entertain equal mistrust of LI HUNG-CHANG himself. Our Shanghai morning contemporary, who certainly cannot be accused of favouring Japan, is of opinion that no Chinaman is so heartily despised and hated by Japan as LI HUNG-CHANG, and that if she consents to make a treaty with him it would be only from a conviction that she could obtain thereby terms favourable to herself. Our contemporary grounds this opinion obviously on what it terms the non-hostile policy of the Viceroy towards Japan throughout the war. Inferentially if not explicitly the *N. C. Daily News* accuses LI HUNG-CHANG of the foulest and basest treachery for the sake of his own advantage. For our part we have always regarded the Viceroy as the very fount of official corruption, which has been growing with his growth in power for the past thirty years, until its overflowing torrent threatens to paralyse the empire. But we do not think the Japanese Government are, as our contemporary believes, eager to conclude a treaty with a man ready to betray and sell his country for his own advantage. They simply express a readiness to receive him, being in courtesy bound to do so, but they will be no more ready to consider the terms he offers than they would if any other high dignitary of the Chinese Government were to make them.

RETIREMENT OF MR. JUSTICE ACKROYD.

(5th March.)

By the French mail steamer to-morrow His Honour Mr. E. J. ACKROYD will take his departure from the colony and will probably not return. Mr. ACKROYD entered the service in Mauritius in 1853 and after a very successful career in that colony he was transferred to Hongkong in 1881 as Registrar of the Supreme Court, where he had to evolve order out of chaos. Not long before his arrival the Haffam frauds had occurred and in the interval nothing effective had been done towards bringing the business of the Registry into a satisfactory condition. Very soon after Mr. ACKROYD took charge, however, a great change was effected, a system of order and regularity being established, and although at first the transition from the easy going ways of former days to the strict

business principles of Mr. ACKROYD was not liked by every one, it was soon discovered that it was in every respect a vast improvement, and expressions of appreciation took the place of grumbling. For a great part of 1883 Mr. ACKROYD was Acting Puisne Judge; in 1886-8 and again in 1890 he was Acting Attorney-General; and in 1891 he was again appointed Acting Puisne Judge, and in June, 1892, received the substantive appointment to that office. During the absences of the Chief Justice he has in ordinary course acted for him, and both in the higher office and in his own has been recognised as a conscientious, able, and hard-working Judge. Hard work has been indeed one of the conspicuous features of His Honour's official character. In addition to serving the colony in the appointments already mentioned he has always been ready to lend his assistance outside the duties of strict official routine when required and has rendered valuable services in connection with commissions or committees of inquiry. He was a member of the Law Revision Committee; when the Alves frauds occurred in the Treasury he was selected as Chairman of the Committee of Inquiry, and the report and minutes of the evidence show with what care and ability that important inquiry was conducted; he was also Chairman of the Retrenchment Committee, and although the result in that case was perhaps not quite so satisfactory there was equal evidence of care and of a desire to do what was right. When an Arbitration Board had to be constituted in connection with the Taipingshan Resumption Ordinance Mr. ACKROYD's appointment as Chairman commanded complete confidence and was received with universal satisfaction, and both the confidence and satisfaction have, so far as it is possible to judge at the present stage, been fully justified. On his departure Mr. ACKROYD will carry with him the good wishes of every one, and the community will join in the hope that he may for very many years to come enjoy his well-earned pension.

Holding the opinion we do of Mr. ACKROYD it is with the more regret that we feel compelled to take exception to one of his latest judicial deliverances, namely, that made in the case of *LEE KING & Co. v. CARLOWITZ & Co.* in the Supreme Court yesterday. The circumstances are in brief as follows. Some time ago a suit was entered by Messrs. LEE KING & Co. to recover from Messrs. CARLOWITZ & Co. certain charter money. Messrs. CARLOWITZ & Co. set up a claim for counter damages for breach of charter. Judgment was entered by consent for Messrs. LEE KING & Co. for the amount of their claim and the question of the damages claimed by Messrs. CARLOWITZ & Co. was by consent of the parties referred to the Registrar. The Registrar assessed the damages and from his decision Messrs. CARLOWITZ & Co. appealed to the Court in its original jurisdiction, the case being heard by Mr. Justice ACKROYD, who delivered judgment on the 13th December in favour of Messrs. CARLOWITZ & Co. In this colony there is an appeal as of right to the Full Court from the decision of a Judge sitting alone in Original Jurisdiction, and in case the Judges differ the Chief Justice has a casting vote. Messrs. LEE KING & Co. exercised their right of appeal and the case was accordingly heard before the Full Court, consisting of His Honour Mr. Justice ACKROYD and His Honour Mr. Justice WISE, on the 28th January, judgment being reserved. Yesterday morning this appeal was the subject of certain remarks from the Acting Chief Justice, the full report of which appears in our legal column. The effect of the remarks was that His Honour had no time to attend to

the matter and that the parties must argue out the appeal afresh after his departure. This means, in addition to the delay and inconvenience, that the losing party will have to pay a double set of costs, for naturally counsel and solicitors will not go through the case again for nothing. Now it appears to us that the proper time for the Acting Chief Justice to have raised his objections was on the 20th January, when the appeal came before the Full Court. He must have known then of his early departure, probably he had even fixed upon the actual date, but nothing was said about the matter then. It is apparently only at the last moment that he informs the bar and the public that his many and multifarious duties have prevented him considering his judgment, which in common justice to the litigants it was his duty to give. If his other duties were so numerous we think he might have put some of them aside as possibly not being so important—his presiding at school prize distributions for instance, or the preparation of the paper he recently read before the "Old Volunteers" Society—and applied himself to the consideration of his judgment in the above case; or he might even have delayed his departure for a week or a fortnight in order to clear up the work he had in hand. His reference to the advantage of having the case heard before judges neither of whom had previously had it before them is beside the question, because both litigants were presumably satisfied with the court as constituted at the time the appeal was argued, and although in the abstract it may be desirable that a Judge should not hear and decide an appeal against his own judgment that principle has not yet been embodied in our local law. If it was necessary to raise that point at all, it ought to have been raised at the time the appeal was entered instead of at the time judgment was expected.

THE BIMETALLIC MOVEMENT.

The bimetallic cause appears for the time being to be making headway. A motion has been passed by the House of Commons in favour of a bimetallic conference, a similar motion has been passed by the Reichstag, and the United States are in the throes of a convincing currency crisis induced by the unwise action taken in the demonetisation of silver. In all the gold countries industries, particularly agriculture, are feeling the pinch of the contracted currency, a pinch which is approaching the point of strangulation. As an American paper puts it, "Gold is now the unit of value, the only money of final redemption. Is there a sufficient supply of gold? In other words, is there enough to maintain prices? Prices were established on a basis of about \$7,000,000,000 of money of redemption, of which but a little more than one-half was gold. Taking out silver, the total is reduced by about one-half—nearly to \$3,500,000,000. Prices established on the \$7,000,000,000 coin basis cannot be maintained on a \$3,500,000,000 coin basis. The real question for statesmen to determine is whether prices shall continue to fall until the \$3,500,000,000 basis is reached, or whether by common action among commercial nations the old basis of \$7,000,000,000 shall be restored." This seems a very fair statement of the case. But is there any probability of common action being taken among the commercial nations to restore the old basis? On this point an attitude of scepticism may well be excused, on the part even of the most ardent of theoretical bimetallics. It would have been

a simple matter to have prevented the rupture of the bimetallic tie; to restore it is quite a different thing. The old question of the ratio, which bimetallics usually slur over, will be found a very difficult one to solve. If the creditor class are asked to accept ten shillings worth of silver in payment of a debt of a sovereign the movement will not command their support, and the new born zeal of the Lancashire operatives would soon evaporate if they were asked to accept their wages on that basis. But that is what the immediate restoration of the old ratio of 15½ to 1 would mean. If, on the other hand, the market rate be adopted as the ratio things would remain much as they are except that we would have the assurance that they would not get worse, and it would be something to be thankful for if we could feel sure there was no further fear of the dollar falling to one-and-six pence, a shilling, or perhaps even ninepence. But the adoption of the market rate would not satisfy the silver party, and on this rock it is to be feared the proposed international conference will either break up altogether or be diverted into trying some ineffectual expedient to bolster up silver without frankly accepting it as money and according to it equally with gold the privileges of free coinage and unlimited legal tender. Any expedient of that kind would be disastrous and add to our troubles. No good has been done by the experiment tried in India and time will probably show great evils resulting from it, as they have from the currency tinkering in America. The state of the currency in America, with its greenbacks, its silver certificates, and so forth, may be judged from the following passage in the President's message of the 28th January:—

The only way open to the Government for procuring gold is by the issue and sale of its bonds. The only bonds that can be so issued were authorised nearly 25 years ago and are not well calculated to meet our present needs. Among other disadvantages they are made payable in coin instead of specifically in gold, which in existing conditions detracts largely and in an increasing ratio from their desirability as investments. It is by no means certain that bonds of this description can much longer be disposed of at a price creditable to the financial character of our Government. The most dangerous and irritating feature of the situation, however, remains to be mentioned. It is found in the terms by which the Treasury is deprived of the gold thus obtained without cancelling a single Government obligation, and solely for the benefit of those who find profit in shipping it abroad, or whose fears induce them to hoard it at home. We have outstanding about \$500,000,000 of currency notes of the Government for which gold may be demanded, and, curiously enough, the law requires that when presented, and in fact, redeemed and paid in gold, they shall be reissued. These same notes may do duty many times in drawing gold from the Treasury, nor can the process be arrested, as private parties for profit or otherwise see an advantage in repeating the operation. More than \$300,000,000 of these notes have already been redeemed in gold, and notwithstanding such redemption, they are still outstanding.

Since the 17th day of January, 1894, our bonded interest-bearing debt has been increased \$100,000,000 for the purpose of obtaining gold to replenish our coin reserve. Two issues were made, amounting to \$50,000,000 each, one in January and the other in November. As a result of the first issue there was realised something more than \$58,000,000 in gold. Between that issue and the succeeding one in November, comprising a period of about 10 months, nearly \$100,000,000 in gold was drawn from the Treasury. This made the second issue necessary and upon that more than \$53,000,000 in gold was again realised. Between the date of this second issue and the present time, covering a period of only about two months, more than \$60,000,000 in gold have been drawn from the Treasury. These large sums of gold were expended without any cancellation of Government obligations or in a permanent way, benefitting our people or improving our pecuniary situation.

The financial events of the last year suggest facts and conditions which should certainly arrest attention. More than \$172,000,000 in gold have been drawn out of the Treasury during the year for the purpose of shipment abroad or hoarding at home. While nearly \$100,000,000 of this amount were drawn out during the first ten months of the year, a sum aggregating more than two-thirds of that amount, being about \$69,000,000, was drawn out during the following two months, thus indicating a marked acceleration of the depleting process with the lapse of time. The obligations upon which this gold has been drawn from the Treasury are still outstanding and are available for use in repeating the exhausting operation within shorter intervals as our perplexities accumulate. Conditions are certainly supervening tending to make

the bonds which may be issued to replenish our gold less useful for that purpose.

The industrial and agricultural distress in the States is now as acute as in Europe, tens of thousands of mortgages have been foreclosed, and instead of there being a stream of emigration flowing into the country there is an outflow of the labouring population. Such a state of affairs is not surprising when industry has to bear the burden of the enormous gold withdrawals referred to in the President's message. Every dollar so withdrawn represents the result of labour improperly transferred from the man who earned it to others. The example of the United States, then, is one to be avoided. There is no logical standing place between bimetallicism and monometallicism, and any attempt to compromise between the two must necessarily result in failure. Now it has been clearly proved by the experience of the last twenty years that gold does not exist in sufficient quantity to carry on the business of the world unless on the basis of lower prices than formerly prevailed. As JOHN STUART MILL puts it, "Every decrease of quantity of money lowers the value of property and every increase raises it in a ratio exactly equivalent." The demonetisation of silver, by decreasing the quantity of money, has lowered values in all the gold using countries and disorganised business throughout the world. It is probable that the process of diminishing values has about reached its completion, but that opinion was held long ago, before silver had fallen to anything like its present level, and while monometallicism prevails there can be no certainty in the matter. But if the decrease in values of the last twenty years has been an evil, a sudden increase by enlarging the volume of currency would be scarcely less so. What, for instance, would be the effect on the China trade if the price of tea and silk in Europe were doubled, and the silver price in China of European goods reduced by one half? If bimetallicism be adopted the ratio of the two metals should in the first instance be established on the basis of their relative values at the time, subject to readjustment at stated intervals. In the course of time the old ratio of 15½ to 1 might be recovered; but it is in every sense desirable that the process should be gradual and not sudden. It would no doubt be very agreeable for those who have a silver capital to wake up some morning to find its sterling value doubled, but the effect on trade would be disastrous.

SINGAPORE AND THE MILITARY CONTRIBUTION.

Singapore is about to present a petition to the House of Commons with reference to its grievance in respect of the military contribution. The committee of the local branch of the Straits Settlements Association was to meet on the 22nd ult. for the purpose of considering the draft of the petition and it may be assumed that the movement will be duly carried through. We have heard nothing more of the petition sent from Hongkong with reference to the constitution of the Legislative Council, and hardly expect to do so, but the petition from Singapore will probably be more fortunate in commanding attention, for several reasons. In the first place, the Hongkong petition, if the truth must be confessed, was somewhat too vague and general in its character to excite very lively attention at home, whereas the Singapore petition deals with a concrete grievance, the importance of which, from a colonial point of view, has been emphasised

by the resignation of several of the Singapore members of Council and the whole of the Justices of the Peace; and in the second place, the London branch of the Straits Association is a strong body with sufficient influence in Parliament to see that the petition receives attention, whereas the Hongkong petition had no such backing. We expect in course of time, therefore, to hear not only that the Singapore petition has been in due course presented to the House, but that a debate has been formally raised on it. We are not equally sanguine as to the result of the debate. It cannot be made a party question, for the Liberals and Conservatives are in the same boat on this matter. The Colonial party in the House also recognise the justice of the colonies sharing in the cost of the defence of the empire and a mere question of account is not likely to excite much enthusiasm. The probability is, therefore, that the members specially interested in the Straits will be allowed to have their say, but in a small house. The Government, however, in order to relieve itself in some measure of responsibility in connection with a rather irritating question, may consent to, or itself propose, the appointment of a commission to inquire into the matter not only as regards the Straits in particular but the colonies in general. That is in itself a thing to be desired, for it would naturally lead to the establishment of some well defined principle upon which the contributions should be levied, and the local irritation might thereby be in some measure removed. But whether there would be any actual pecuniary relief may be doubted. The members of the Commission could not be expected to be imbued with any great desire to shift the burden of taxation from the ratepayers of Singapore on to the shoulders of the already heavily burdened British taxpayer. It would no doubt be argued that the native communities who enjoy the protection of the British flag should pay their fair share towards the cost of Imperial defence, and when the question of what is a fair share is gone into the chances, we fear, are rather in favour of the commission taking the view that has been taken by successive Liberal and Conservative Administrations as to the actual amount paid by Singapore not being in excess. The colony may find it less irritating to pay a certain sum in accordance with some principle laid down by the Commission instead of at the behest of the Downing Street authorities, but if the amount remains the same the effect on the colonial exchequer will be nil. It would, however, be a satisfaction to know that all the Crown colonies were treated on the same basis and we may assume that the commission would recognise the injustice of allowing certain colonies to escape altogether while levying large sums on others.

THE CONSERVANCY SYSTEM OF HONGKONG.

The report of the Committee of the Sanitary Board appointed to consider the question of the introduction of the water closet system in the colony will be read with a feeling of relief by the community at large. The Committee are uncompromisingly opposed to the general adoption of the system and would allow it only in individual cases where special reasons exist. A series of questions was circulated to the doctors, architects, and a few other gentlemen supposed to have knowledge of the subject, and practically the answers are all in favour of the removal of excreta by hand carriage, the bucket system, as it is generally termed. There were twenty-four questions re-

ferring to special points in connection with the two systems, and the twenty-fifth was general, being worded as follows:—“Will you state shortly which of the two systems you prefer for Hongkong, for the disposal of night-soil—the present system of hand carriage whereby, within twenty-four hours, all faecal matter is removed outside the waters of the colony, or the water carriage system, by which it passes into the sewers and thence into the harbour; and will you give a very brief summary of your reasons for and against each?” Mr. HUGH McCALLUM replies:—“Practically, the water carriage system for the better class of houses and the bucket system for tenement dwellings. Theoretically, the water carriage system for all;” and he attaches a long summary of his reasons. We would agree with Mr. McCALLUM as to the suitability of the water carriage system to the better class of houses, meaning thereby the European houses, provided a constant supply of water throughout the whole year could be guaranteed, but that is not the case at present, nor is it likely to be the case even after the extension of the Tytam reservoir now in progress, for the growth of the population will very soon overtake the increase in the supply of water, and during prolonged droughts the colony will still be liable as at present to be reduced to one or two hours’ supply per diem. For this reason the introduction of water closets even in European houses should be discouraged. Under the circumstances, therefore, it is hardly necessary to consider the theoretical advantages of the water closet system for all houses, European and native alike. It is the practical advantages or disadvantages of the two systems that have to be looked at, and, whatever may be said with regard to European houses, there can be no question as to the inapplicability of the water carriage system to Chinese houses. Mr. E. MACKINTOSH in his replies to the Committee’s questions expresses what we think will be the general view of the community when he says that to assume that proper conditions can exist that would permit of the use of water closets “is a large order and is more in the nature of an experiment that I most strongly deprecate being tried, bearing in mind the recent experiments with the drainage of the colony according to the more civilised methods of Europe. . . . Natives do not and will not understand Western methods in this connection. To attempt to educate them is a wild idea to contemplate. The bulk of the native inhabitants are drawn from the surrounding mainland—a changing population born, bred, and wedded to their own customs, which it is perhaps impossible to eradicate. To introduce water closets amongst such a mass appears to me an appalling suggestion.”

TAIPINGSHAN RESUMPTION ARBITRATION BOARD.

The Taipingshan Arbitration Board, consisting of His Honour Mr. E. J. Ackroyd, Acting Chief Justice, Mr. E. F. Alford, and Mr. W. Danby, met on Thursday and announced several awards.

His Lordship—The first claim we have to decide is claim No. 50 made by Ng A Kwun, owner of Inland Lot 701. In this the sum of \$17,600 was claimed, and the Court awards \$11,500. The next case is Li Fung Shan, owner of the remaining portion of Inland Lot 600. In this case the sum of \$11,618 was claimed. The offer was \$8,400 and the Board awards \$8,400. In the case of Bruce Shepherd, Inland Lot 599, the claim was \$19,000, the offer \$13,200, and the award is \$13,600. In this case, as the Board has awarded so very little beyond the sum which has been offered, we have reserved the question of costs and wish to hear parties thereon.

I will now mention Musso’s case; that is 701 A. This case was heard by us and we gave a decision at the hearing. But a day or two afterwards, on considering the matter, we thought we had not given sufficient and we therefore refrained from signing the award or drawing it up or publishing it until we had an opportunity of reviewing the land. We went and examined it carefully, and we find it is better situated in respect of other properties than we had thought, and the houses on it are in a better condition than our first impression led us to believe. Under these circumstances we have no hesitation in coming to the decision that we have made a mistake, and the Court is always ready to acknowledge a mistake; but we would not come to any decision until we had heard all those three cases in this block, to see whether our impression as to the value of Musso’s land would be confirmed by the evidence given in those three other cases. We are clearly of opinion now that Musso’s land is at least as good as 701, for which we have just allowed \$12,500. We allowed Musso only \$10,890. We are not very sure under the circumstances whether we have a right to amend our award. The Ordinance does not give us power to do so, but the award has not been drawn up, signed, or published, and therefore we think we have power. We have no difficulty in consenting to an award of \$12,500 in Musso’s case.

Mr. Denny—I think your Lordship has already given costs.

His Lordship—Yes; in Musso’s case the costs will follow.

FINAL SITTING.

The Taipingshan Resumption Arbitration Board, consisting of His Honour Mr. E. J. Ackroyd, Acting Chief Justice, Mr. E. F. Alford, and Mr. W. Danby, met on Friday, the 1st inst., for the last time.

In stating the award in claim No. 8 his Lordship said—This is a claim for resumption of a temple and it having been proved that it was let on a repairing lease (excepting fires and typhoons) for 15 years, of which over 14 years had still to run, at a rental of \$70 per month, it is impossible for us to overlook this fact. In assessing this award on rental we do not forget that taxes have been evaded in the past, and, taking all the peculiar circumstances into consideration, we award the claimant \$8,000; but the Government of course have the option of avoiding payment by permitting the claimant to resume possession, in which case it is understood the claimant withdraws his claim *in toto*. Costs for claimant.

WHO SHOULD PAY THE COSTS?

His Lordship—In three cases in which we gave judgment the other day we awarded a sum a trifle over the amount offered by the Government and we reserved the question of costs, because, according to the Ordinance, if we had given only the sum offered by Government we would not have been able to grant costs. As the claimants in these three cases have received so very little over the offer, and in one or two cases so much under what they claimed, is it right that they should get costs when, as I have said, if we did not give that small sum over the amount of the offer they would not have had any costs at all?

Mr. V. H. Deacon, who represented Mr. Bruce Shepherd, then addressed the Court at considerable length, and argued that his client’s costs ought to be paid. There was no set of circumstances in England precisely similar to the set created in the Taipingshan Ordinance, which was different from anything which existed in the judicature in England. Therefore he submitted they ought to argue by analogy, and as it were impress upon the Board the procedure that ruled at home under statute although it did not rule here under statute. The Board would no doubt consider the position of the parties. The claimant was in reality in the position of plaintiff; of course there were no pleadings filed, no declaration, no answers, &c., but he submitted that the claim which was filed under the Ordinance here was in effect the same as a declaration of a plaintiff in an ordinary action. He thought that was reasonable, because they must have some reasonable statute or other, and he thought it was reasonable to ask the Board to treat the claimants in the cases as plaintiffs. Counsel then quoted from various authorities to show that the winning parties should be

allowed costs. He admitted that the costs were of course under the absolute control of the Board; the Ordinance was very full and complete on that point. But a judicial discretion must be exercised judicially, and he confidently submitted that the Board could not without some reason deprive the claimant of his costs. In default of any other rule being before the Board the Board must gather a rule from one of the procedures in England. The point was which was the rule to follow? The true test was, what has the claimant got? Has he got more than the Government offer? If he has he thought the Board should follow the Land Clauses Act 1849, and the Housing Act 1890. The parties were forced to come into Court, and would not have sold their land unless they had been compelled.

His Lordship—You are not brought here.

Mr. Deacon—We must come here unless we want to lose our money.

His Lordship—You can settle with the Director of Public Works.

Mr. Deacon—That is what we have done, but when the Government says "No, we won't give you what you want," what are we to do? The claimants were obliged to come into Court; they could not help themselves. We thought Mr. Cooper's offer too low, as it has been in a large majority of the cases which have come before this Board. The general rule is that costs follow the event. That is my position to-day; I have obtained the verdict.

His Lordship—That is the difficulty of the Board. Has the party succeeding a right to get his costs? Can you say that you succeed when the Government offer you \$13,200, you claim \$19,000, and you only get \$13,600.

Mr. Deacon—Yes, I do say so. Who is to lay down the line and say "Unless you get so much for your property you shall not get your costs"? Every man has a right to get as much as he can.

His Lordship—I distinctly deny that. No man has any right to demand more than he thinks his land is worth. If we saw that parties were trying to get, not how much the land was worth, but as much as they could, we should stop it.

Mr. Deacon—Your lordship, I hope, distinctly understands that I am not suggesting or contending for a moment—

His Lordship—I am afraid it has been contended in some cases before us.

Mr. Deacon—I do not want to be misunderstood, my lord. The test of the case is not what a man claims but the result.

His Lordship—Instead of referring the costs to the Registrar cannot we fix the amount of costs?

Mr. Deacon—That is almost impossible, my lord. Look at the enormous lot of work done.

His Lordship—Suppose we thought you were not entitled to all your costs?

Mr. Deacon—Your lordship is dealing with a question of principle and not with the amount.

His Lordship—We were thinking of giving you so much. We thought your client's conduct not altogether wrong and of allowing you so much. We think we have a right.

Mr. Deacon—I do not think your Lordship has a right. If you once decide the principle that I am entitled to costs I shall leave them to the taxing master.

His Lordship—In one or two cases we have allowed so much for costs.

Mr. Deacon—That is not the case here; we did not know it.

His Lordship—We have granted so much without costs because we have valued them at a certain amount and included them, and in doing that we thought the claimants had full value for their land.

The Attorney-General then addressed the Board on behalf of the Government, and said that in the first instance the Board publicly announced that if parties made extravagant claims their costs would not be allowed. He hoped the Board would not go back on its own decision. The cases quoted by his friend had no more to do with this case than, if he might say so, the man in the moon. The rule was that the Board used its own discretion in the matter of costs. These parties in making such extravagant claims had disregarded the publicly expressed warnings of the Board and they ought to be deprived of their costs. It was all very well to say it makes no difference and that everyone is entitled to get as much as possible, but the Government had had consider-

able difficulty in settling cases, and there were only two cases in which costs had been allowed.

Mr. Deacon said the Attorney-General really implied that because a man had made a larger claim than the amount awarded he ought to be punished, and should not get his costs. But a man could do no more than act according to the very best advice he could get, and he must come into Court when he was advised that his property was worth more than the Government offered. On Thursday the Government made a very much worse case. The claim in one case was \$11,700, the Government offered \$1,003 which was increased to \$1,500, and the award was \$8,000.

His Lordship—The lease was not in that case brought under the notice of the Director of Public Works.

Mr. Deacon—Mr. Dennys tells me that two months ago it was brought fully to his notice. It is within the Board's knowledge that there have been very big differences between the offers and awards. If claimants have made mistakes the Government has made mistakes at least as bad.

His Lordship—We are not called up at this late hour to lay down any principle. We decide these cases on their merits, and on first consideration we thought there had been some exaggeration as to claims put in, and therefore we were not willing to decide the question of costs before hearing the parties. I cannot approve of anybody putting in an exaggerated statement, but I do not think that matter comes into the question here, and we have been considering these three cases on their merits, and have carefully weighed the arguments brought before us. We think that, taking all the facts into consideration, we shall allow costs.

CLOSING THE BUSINESS OF THE BOARD.

His Lordship said—Mr. Attorney and gentlemen, as the claim which has just been dealt with is the last which this Board has to decide we think it may be both useful and interesting if before we close our sitting we submit a brief sketch of the work which this Board has accomplished. The Board was constituted by Ordinance No. 8 of 1891. That Ordinance enacted among other things that certain lands fully set out in the schedule to the Ordinance should be resumed as from the 1st June last, and constituted a Board—one member to be approved by H. E. the Governor, one to be elected by the unofficial members of the Legislative Council, and a third by the owners of the land resumed. The Board as at present composed was constituted by notice in the *Government Gazette*. The Board was to award full and fair compensation to the owners of the said lands, and in doing so they were empowered to take into consideration any matters or things they may deem just and fair, and make such deductions as the age and sanitary or other conditions of the property required. The portion of land resumed forms a regular parallelogram, measuring from east to west 1,000 feet and 585 feet from north to south, including the two small squares or annexes, one at the north-east corner bounded on the north by Square Street, the south by Bridges Street, the east by Ladder Street, and the west by Tank Lane, and another on the south-west corner extending from market Street to Rutter Street and which is divided into four large lots, viz.:—Inland Lots Nos. 599, 600, 701, 701a. The whole of this land is divided into 78 Lots on which are built 429 houses, and are owned by 98 persons. Seventy-seven claims were put in, not counting claims filed by mortgagees in cases in which the owners had already claimed compensation. The total amount claimed was \$1,016,452.36. Claimants accepted the offers made to them in 39 cases to the amount of \$319,497, and the remaining 45 claims were dealt with by the Board, which awarded the sum of \$443,600, making a gross sum of \$763,097, including the claims of Maria Stella, Dr. Chalmers' Hospital, and Cheong Kai, as to which special arrangements have also been suggested to enable the claimants if possible to remain in possession of their lots, one of which is occupied by a school and chapel, the other is another chapel, and the last is the site of the temple of the Goddess of Mercy. The total net area of the lots was 279,300 square feet, exclusive of public streets, giving an average rate of \$2.65 per foot, the highest price being \$6.76, the price offered by Government to the owners of Inland Lot No. 239; the lowest 75 cents, the amount awarded by the Board for Inland Lot 701. The largest

sum awarded was \$79,000, the lowest \$230. (Here follows a list of the awards.) We never thought that our task would be an easy or acceptable one, as on one hand we had a large body of claimants, who having their land and houses taken from them against their wish were striving to obtain as much as possible for the property of which they had thus been deprived, and on the other hand the Government officials, who as guardians of the public purse and representing the taxpayers were naturally animated by the desire that the claimants should obtain only the strict market value of the property. To have given satisfaction to both parties under such opposing circumstances was simply impossible, and not to have made some mistakes in fixing the value of these large numbers of houses was equally beyond our powers, but we think we may fairly say that on all occasions we have done our best, and taken every circumstance into consideration in order to arrive at and to fix a full and fair compensation for the land resumed. No doubt there are some who having purchased their property at a time when the market for land was high, or who placed too high a value on land in Taipingshan, believe they have been harshly dealt with and have not received the full value of their property, but we would ask them to remember that the returns of rent for the last three years all showed that that neighbourhood had been losing some of its former popularity, and the instances which we have met with of houses or floors unlet also pointed to the fact that other parts of the colony claimed the former denizens of Taipingshan. They have now a fresh opportunity of advantageously investing their property what they are going to receive. We would also assure them that each case has met with a careful consideration at our hands in our endeavour to do justice to all parties. Many difficulties which at first beset our work owing to the considerable divergence between the value set upon the property by the claimants and those who represented the Government were afterwards greatly smoothed over by more moderate demands on the one hand and the readiness shown by the Director of Public Works to meet the wishes of the Board, and we would here acknowledge the fairness, we may say even the liberality, which has marked many of the recent offers made by Government. We also beg to thank all those professional gentlemen engaged in this arbitration for the aid and assistance which we have received from them and if during some of the first sittings any hasty remarks were made we are sure that no one regretted them more than the speaker and that if any little pain was caused by the same at the time, this has been quickly and generously forgotten and forgiven. The members of the Board have felt greatly honoured by the confidence placed in them by the Government and their fellow citizens, and have used their best endeavours to do justice in the interest of all and to justify the choice made by Government and others. Our task is done; and before closing this our last sitting, we, from the bottom of our hearts, do most earnestly join in the hopes and wishes of the whole colony that the measures which have been taken and the costly sacrifices which have been so readily made by the Government may be effectual, and that our fair island may in the future be ever spared a recurrence of the terrible visitation of 1894. Personally I desire to express my great indebtedness to my colleagues on the Board for the great assistance and help which their experience in these matters and technical and local knowledge have been to me and which has greatly lessened my labours.

The Attorney-General in reply begged to thank the Board for its courtesy and the careful consideration its members had given to the cases before them. The amount of labour thrown upon the Director of Public Works by so large a number of claims in addition to his other duties can be best appreciated by the Board, and those who, like myself, have been engaged before it. It must have been a heavy strain upon his health and strength, and I desire to acknowledge the great assistance he has been. Indeed the principal work has of course fallen upon his shoulders. I desire also to acknowledge the help I have all through received from Mr. Sercombe Smith, who himself appeared for the Crown in many of the later cases. I trust there will be little more for the Board to do unless any questions of costs should arise. I think we shall be able to settle

without taxation or additional expense the amounts payable as costs to the Government in the two cases in which costs were awarded to the Crown.

Mr. Deacon asked to be permitted on behalf of the solicitors who had appeared before his Lordship to thank him for the very kind remarks he had made, and he was sure they would be appreciated by the solicitors.

THE WORK OF THE POLICE IN THE PLAGUE.

RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICES OF THE FORCE.

At noon on Friday the men of the Hongkong Police Force were paraded at the Central Police Station to receive the public thanks of His Excellency the Governor for the services rendered during the plague epidemic, and at the same time to receive a silver shield from the community in recognition of these services. The men were drawn up in line, under the command of Mr. F. H. May, Captain Superintendent, and the Force presented arms on the arrival of His Excellency. There were also present—His Excellency Major-General Barker, C.B.; His Honour Mr. E. J. Ackroyd, Acting Chief Justice; Colonial O'Gorman, D.A.A.G.; Capt. Sterling, A.D.C.; Capt. Murray, A.D.C.; Mr. Cyril Platt, Private Secretary; Mrs. Barker, Mrs. Ackroyd, Miss Barker, Mr. A. G. Wise, Acting Puisne Judge; Mr. H. E. Wedekind, Police Magistrate; Mr. C. Nicolle, Mr. Granville Sharp, Mr. E. Robinson, and Mr. C. C. Bowring.

His Honour the ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE, in his capacity of Chairman of the Plague Services Recognition Committee, said—Sir, the Plague Recognition Committee have the privilege to-day of asking your Excellency on their behalf and as representing the community of Hongkong to thank the members of the Police Force for the valuable services rendered during the plague of 1894. Those services are too well-known to your Excellency to need any repetition on my part. The matter was carefully considered by the Committee, and we found that the volunteers from the Police Force having distinguished themselves during the prevalence of the plague are worthy of the gratitude of the colony. The Committee therefore decided that certain medals should be offered to the Police in the same manner as they were offered to the Military, that a shield should be presented to the Sergeants' Mess, and Mr. May's services should be especially brought to your Excellency's notice. This has been done. We also decided to ask your Excellency to publicly thank the officers and others who took part in these services. Mr. May has forwarded to us a list showing that Chief Inspector Mathieson, the Inspectors of the Central Station, Inspectors Hennessy, and Kemp, Acting Inspector Baker; Inspector Mackie, Inspectors Hanson, Mann, and Quincey; Sergeants Gillies, Phelps, Moffat, Melver, Hall, Saliz Ram, Utter Singh, Constables Dixon, Gidley, McKillop, Collett, Thomson, Ritchie, Garrigan, McDonald, McIver, Macaulay, Burgess, McEwen, Fenton, Wright, Rae, Pepp r, Waters, Kerr, Campbell, and Clark rendered most valuable and efficient services, and these will receive medals. This shield we trust will remind future members of the Force of the devoted work of those who volunteered for service during the plague, and it is a matter of great satisfaction that during the period which taxed so much the and pride to the Committee energies of all concerned the Police had at its head a young officer who had begun his official career as a Hongkong cadet and has served the colony ever since. It only remains for me to ask your Excellency to tender the thanks of the community to the officers and men of the Police Force. We feel perfectly sure the recipients of the thanks will doubly value them, coming from your Excellency as the Governor of this colony and the head of the service to which they belong.

His EXCELLENCY said—Captain Superintendent, Inspectors, Sergeants, and men of the Hongkong Police Force, I have a very pleasant duty to perform. I have, as has been explained to you by the Acting Chief Justice, to convey to you the thanks of the community of Hongkong, and also the thanks of myself and of the Government of Hongkong, for the very valuable services which you one and all rendered during the prevalence of the never-

to-be-forgotten plague of 1894. You may say perhaps that these thanks and the rewards to be presented to you have come a little late. There has been delay—unavoidable delay; but the thanks of the community are none the less sincere and the rewards are none the less substantial than those given to those gallant fellows in arms, the men of the Shropshire Regiment and of the Royal Engineers and Royal Artillery. I do not wish in the least to undervalue the services rendered by the Military, but I must strongly confess my own opinion that the services of the Police were equally valuable and certainly more continuous. If I am asked why I held that opinion I would say in the first place that the work placed upon the Military by the Permanent Committee could not have been performed except with the assistance of the Police. The house-to-house visitation was a most delicate and difficult matter and that could not have been performed without the assistance of the European police who could speak Chinese and of the Chinese police who could speak English. These men acted as interpreters for the civilians and the military who were engaged in this most difficult and delicate task. The work at the Tungwah Hospital also could never have been completed without assistance from all three branches of the Forces, nor could the disinfecting and cleansing operations in the houses—a most distasteful work—have been effected by the military without the assistance of the Hongkong Police Force. For four months, from the middle of May to the middle of September, there were 6 European Police, 2 Indian, and 17 Chinese regularly employed on plague work; and there were 14 Europeans, 14 Indians, and 13 Chinese engaged on the same work for periods varying from one month to three months; and let me tell you that these men volunteered for duty (applause). During the whole of that time I am proud to say there was no objection made against any member of the Force engaged in these operations. There was an immense amount of extra work thrown upon the other members of the Police on account of the plague work, but I am glad to be able to say it was cheerfully undertaken by one and all. For these reasons I am asked by the community to express to you their very best thanks and I do so with a great deal of pleasure. I think the colony has reason to be proud of its Police Force. It is the finest Police Force I have ever seen in any colony during the twenty years I have had the honour of administering Colonial Governments (applause). And let me add with reference to what His Honour the Acting Chief Justice said, I think the colony is not only to be congratulated upon the Force, but has also to be heartily congratulated on the fact of your having as your leader and Captain Superintendent such a young, energetic and able Superintendent as Mr. F. H. May. Of all men in the colony who distinguished themselves during the plague your Superintendent stands first (applause), and you like loyal men followed him heartily, manfully, and unhesitatingly. On my own behalf and on behalf of the community I thank you most sincerely for the services you performed (applause). I should like to add that several Inspectors and Sergeants have been specially mentioned to me; I should like them to step forward.

At His Excellency's request Inspector Mackie, Sergeant Hall, Phelps, Melver, and Moffat stepped to the front.

His EXCELLENCY—All these officers have been granted good conduct medals for their good work in addition to the awards made by the Committee. (Applause).

Chief Inspector Mathieson then stepped forward at the instance of His Excellency, and received a silver shield bearing the following inscription:—"Presented by the community of Hongkong to the Police Force for their services during the plague of 1894." The shield is about two feet square and is mounted on a carved blackwood frame.

Mr. MAY said—Your Excellency and my Lord Chief Justice, on behalf of the Force which I have the honour to command, I beg to express my deep sense which all members of the Force feel of the honour that has been done them to-day by the gracious terms in which Your Excellency has been pleased to address them, and by the presentation of the shield and the promise of medals with which the community of this colony desires to mark its appreciation of

our work during the epidemic of plague. The words of praise which have been bestowed upon us to-day will, I feel sure, stimulate every member of this Force to the conscientious performance of his duties, and I trust that, whatever emergency the Government and the community of this colony may have to face, they will find in this Police Force a body of zealous, courageous, and loyal men who are ready to serve the colony with faithful devotion. (Applause).

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A special meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on Monday afternoon to consider the by-laws made under Section 13 of Ordinance 15 of 1894. Mr. F. H. May presided, and there were also present the Hon. F. A. Cooper, Director of Public Works, Dr. Hartigan, Mr. R. K. Leigh, and Mr. H. McCallum (Secretary).

The discussion which ensued upon the reading of each section was not of very great interest. Several amendments were suggested and made. In regard to Section 1, which provided that the entire ground surface of all domestic buildings shall be covered with "at least 6 inches of good lime or cement concrete," &c., Dr. HARTIGAN suggested that four inches of good cement concrete would be sufficient, as engineers had told him that it was not a question of the thickness of the concrete, but of the quality. He also proposed that there should be a definition of what good concrete was.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS did not approve of the suggestion, and Mr. LEIGH said that if the concrete was not good it would not set properly.

Dr. HARTIGAN's suggestions were not adopted.

Section 12 provides that "the occupier of any premises shall at all times keep his premises in a cleanly and wholesome condition and see that the drains, traps, gratings, fall-pipes, and other sanitary fittings and appliances are kept free from obstruction and in an efficient state of repair," &c.

Dr. HARTIGAN asked whether the occupier was liable to keep the drains in "an efficient state of repair."

Mr. LEIGH said that the occupier was liable.

Dr. HARTIGAN—Suppose the drain gets completely broken by a typhoon or anything else, does the occupier have to make it good?

Mr. LEIGH—That is a question between the landlord and the occupier. The occupier must recover from the landlord.

After the other sections had been read and some of them amended, the CHAIRMAN moved and Mr. LEIGH seconded the adoption of the by-laws as amended. The resolution was carried.

Hon. F. A. COOPER—I hope the Legislative Council will be requested to approve the by-laws at once, as the question of basements and concrete floors has been standing over some time.

The Board then adjourned until Thursday week.

TRADE BETWEEN JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA.

Australia appears determined to find foreign markets for its products and is making enterprising and vigorous bids for a share of the trade of these parts. Mr. E. Jerome Dyer, who paid a hurried visit through the East last year on a similar mission, is now amongst us again in a representative and semi-official capacity for the purpose of finding markets for those raw and prepared products which Australia is now exporting in large quantities to London and other European markets. Mr. Dyer has brought with him a large assortment of samples, including a representative collection presented by the Government of Victoria to H. E. Sir William Robinson. He is accredited by the Government of Victoria and the Chamber of Commerce of Sydney and Melbourne, of which he is a member, besides representing other associations and industrial bodies. As an earnest of Australia's desire to enlarge its trade relations with Eastern countries we might quote from one of Mr. Dyer's credentials from the Victorian Government to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary. After introducing Mr. Dyer and describing his mission the Premier of Victoria proceeds:—"Mr. Dyer's mission, if successful, will probably be beneficial to all concerned, and any assistance that may be rendered to him will be regarded as a favour

and will be reciprocated by this Government should opportunity occur." The products which Mr. Dyer has brought with him will be exhibited in the City Hall on Wednesday (to-morrow), and in view of all that has been said and written in regard to Australia's enterprise, its products, and its trade missions, it is very probable that this exhibition will be largely attended, especially as it will be open freely to everyone, and its exhibits will chiefly consist of those goods in which every European household in Hongkong is interested. Though wool, leather, tallow, soaps, etc., are leading features, the majority of the goods are of the character of food products, such as wines, spirits, jams, fruits, biscuits, butter, cheese, hams, flour, tinned meats, soups, preserves, perfumery, and many other interesting articles.

While it is open to everyone to discuss Australia's efforts in the direction referred to, it is incomprehensible to us that anyone should depreciate them. Yet we find that such views are held by—it is to be hoped—a limited number in the foreign settlements of Japan. In our case we are only too glad to welcome Mr. Dyer or any other commissioner coming amongst us with the same objects in view. The only feature that can possibly be objectionable to anyone is increased competition in certain goods. No one, excepting those importers whose interests are mainly confined to one or two particular lines, will object to this. The general consumer benefits by cheaper prices and better qualities; for excellence in quality and cheapness in price will determine the survival of the fittest; there will be greater activity in finding fresh outlets for increased imports, and there will be that enterprise and activity which has established the saying that "competition is the life of trade." Hongkong has been fittingly designated the "hub of Asia's east coast trade." As such we are prepared to hail with satisfaction the advent of any new or cheaper products that will increase our trade with the mainland. Therefore we gladly welcome Mr. Dyer.

As we remarked in an article about three weeks ago, there are those in Japan who hold other views. Some of the newspapers in the foreign settlements of Kobe and Yokohama have stated that "the present trade between Japan and Australia is small enough without splitting it up amongst more merchants than are at present engaged in the trade," and that the development of Australia's trade with Japan should be left to the private enterprise of the merchants in the foreign settlements; that "Mr. Dyer could have got all he wanted from the foreign Chambers of Commerce without going to the Japanese," and that they "fail to see what such missions are expected to achieve." It appears that these onslaughts arose through Mr. Dyer passing by Kobe and Yokohama and going straight to Tokyo and the Japanese Chambers of Commerce. On the occasion of our interview with Mr. Dyer we referred to this matter and Mr. Dyer replied:—

"When those criticisms of my mission appeared in the foreign newspapers of Japan they astounded me. I am glad to say that only two newspapers lent themselves to these extraordinary views, but considering that they had seen a reprint, which appeared in some of the Japanese newspapers, from the Melbourne *Argus* setting forth the itinerary, description, and purpose of my mission in plain and—to me—very flattering terms, their views are, speaking mildly, most narrow-minded. We all know that the foreign merchants in Japan are the pioneers of Japan's foreign trade, and Australia is grateful to them for its share. But that share is not enough. Hitherto we left it entirely to their enterprise. That was not fair. Australia had a right to contribute some of the 'push' that is necessary in opening up markets for foreign goods in new countries. Hence last year's mission and the one I am now conducting. We flattered ourselves last year that we would be received with open arms by the foreign merchants in Japan, as we were contributing such assistance as would increase their import business.

"When we approached them last year and submitted our proposals and our goods they replied that there was no demand for Australian products beyond that which existed at the time—then being fully supplied; that they, the foreign population in Japan, were small in number; and that if we wanted a larger market in Japan for our products we had to look to the Japanese for it;

that, in fact, as they were only in the position of intermediaries between other countries and Japan, we had to create a demand amongst the Japanese, which they, the foreign merchants, would be glad to supply when it arose. This was rather disconcerting, but it was plain enough. Australia had to popularize its products amongst the people of Japan to such a degree that they would order them through such channels as they were in the habit of doing business through.

"I naturally represented this view in Australia and I was despatched on the present mission. I was the bearer of a large collection of Australian products to the Emperor of Japan, a present from the Government of Victoria. As a consequence I was obliged to accompany them to Tokyo. There the greater portion were taken over by the Government and distributed through the leading Japanese Chambers of Commerce. A very practical course, indeed. I was determined that these samples should be properly dealt with and properly appreciated. I was entertained by the Japanese Chambers of Commerce of Tokyo, Nakai, and Kobe. At each dinner the wines and food products of Australia were leading features. The Japanese newspapers told how they were appreciated. I saw many translations and they spoke in glowing terms of the excellent taste and high quality of these Australian products. Yet, peculiarly, all the European newspapers in Japan, with two exceptions, were quite silent on the subject, though they have translators in every office.

"Further, the Japanese Government behaved in a manner that cannot fail to make Australia grateful. They appointed an official from the Department of Commerce to accompany me through Japan, and in every place I visited one or two officials from the local Government's staff were told off to attend me. The Department of Commerce also published in Japanese and distributed through the different Chambers a complete list of Australia's chief products, with comparative prices attached. I am highly satisfied with the result of my mission to Japan. I have succeeded in creating a demand, for I know that many orders have gone forward. But we will not have long to wait for results. The Customs returns for the next twelve months will provide the best answers to those who are sceptical of larger markets in Japan for Australia and will show the best proofs of my success. As to whether the foreigners or the Japanese will conduct this trade is not my concern. I presume it will go to those who are fittest."

"That there are openings for a more extensive trade between Japan and Australia there should not be the least doubt. That this is best and most rapidly brought about by such enterprise as Mr. Dyer is engaged in should be equally plain. Almost the entire trade of the commercial world is being conducted by what are known as commercial travellers. They exhibit samples of their goods, explain their character and excellence, quote prices and terms, and report results. This mission of Mr. Dyer's is somewhat similar, though on an official and larger scale, as it is the initiatory step. We do not presume to say that our trade with Australia is a new thing, but it is quite so in the products mentioned, both as regards Hongkong and Japan.

If we are to take statistics as our guide there is good reason to believe that the interchange of trade between Australia and Japan is about to assume proportions that should command the close attention of both countries. Taking the returns of the last two years we find the following results of Japan's trade with Australia:—

Imports into Japan	Exports from Japan
1893. 319,134 yen	890,637 yen
1894. 533,900 "	1,096,936 "

When we notice the great difference between these values of imports and exports we can quite understand Australia's desire to secure a more equitable interchange. But these figures do not prove greater possibilities on either side. It is not in small goods that Australia can expect to find a large market in Japan. Where, then, are the prospects for a large trade? We find that Mr. Dyer has these at his fingers' ends, and that statistics and trade reports confirm them.

The most important product in this regard is wool. Japan is only in its veriest infancy as a woolen manufacturing country, as it was three or four years ago as a cotton goods manufacturer; yet now it exports nearly 2,000,000 yen worth of the latter, as well as manufacturing for its own enormous consumption. And it must be

remembered that it has to import nearly all its raw cotton from India—Bombay chiefly. In 1893 Japan imported 425,000 yen worth of wool, chiefly from Australia. At present Japan imports about 8,000,000 yen worth of woollen goods, and it is fully believed by everyone who knows anything about the matter that in a few years Japan will herself be a large woollen manufacturer, both for home consumption and for export. The woollen manufacturers evidently recognise the well-known superiority of Australian wools, as the following returns of imports show. Japan imported wool from Australia as follows:—1893, 247,306 yen; 1894, 380,673 yen.

There is no country in the world where skins, hides, and leather are cheaper and better than in Australia, for obvious reasons. Japan, though as yet in its infancy in these manufactures, imports 420,000 yen of hides and skins, yet only imports about 150 yen worth from Australia. It imports 800,000 yen of leather, yet only 3,000 yen from Australia. It imports 140,000 yen of bones, hoofs, and horns, yet only about 12,000 yen from Australia. It imports about 1,250,000 yen worth of flour, wines, butter, tinned meats, and other provisions, of which Australia supplied only about 31,000 yen last year, chiefly in one or two large orders for war stores. Surely these figures shed a light of magnificent possibilities over Australia's prospective market in Japan.

The success of the Japanese in their cotton, paper, match, and other manufactures indisputably proves that they will play a leading part in the supply of manufactures in general to those countries washed by the waters of the Pacific and conveniently situated with respect to Japan. The healthiest trade between countries is that in which there is equitable interchange. No country can satisfactorily supply another over far reaching seas if the ships have to return empty for want of cargo. How are Japan and Australia situated in this regard? The reply to this query is very interesting and quite satisfactory. High labour wage and limited working hours in Australia will prevent that country becoming a manufacturer to any extent for generations to come, and, perhaps, never with European labour. But Australia can supply many products which Japan requires and cannot produce in quantity, and in the production of which working hours and the price of labour are of little account; for nature is the chief factor. Japan will import Australia's wool and send back woollen manufactures; hides, skins, and leather, and return bags, boots, and other manufactures; bones, and return brushes and such like goods; hoofs, and return imitation tortoiseshell in the shape of combs, etc.; sandals and other wds, and return furniture and wood ornaments; pearl shell, and send back wares made therefrom; glue, and return wood matches (in the manufacture of which glue plays the chief part); tallow, and return soaps and candles; jute, flax, and hemp (in course of time), and return carpets, cordage, etc., wool and rabbit hair, and return hats; lead, tin, etc., and return metal wares.

If, with the prospect of this interchange, the trade between Japan and Australia does not rapidly increase it will be owing to some great change of which at present there is no sign.

PRESENTATION TO MR. E. J. ACKROYD.

On Monday morning His Honour Mr. E. J. Ackroyd was visited in his room by the following officers of the Supreme Court:—Mr. A. G. Wise, Acting Puisne Judge, and Messrs. C. F. A. Sangster, F. Hazeland, R. F. Lammet, A. R. Madar, J. D. Ball, F. Howell, V. de Sales, A. Brown, J. M. Santos, C. J. Xavier, Li Hong Mi, Leung Chan, and Mok Man Cheung. Mr. Wise acted as spokesman and in a brief and appropriate speech, presented on behalf of the officers of the Court a very handsome pearl shell card receiver on an exquisite silver pedestal on which is inscribed—"Presented to His Honour Mr. E. J. Ackroyd on his retirement from the Government Service, by the officers of the Supreme Court of Hongkong. March, 1895." His Lordship, in acknowledging the present, spoke with evident emotion, and said that it would ever be a most precious keepsake and was especially dear to him coming, as it did, from those who were so continually with him and so well able to judge him from a near and critical standpoint. During the thirty years of his service

he had always been on excellent terms with his officers, for since they had all worked faithfully and peacefully, each doing his duty to the best of his ability, there was, indeed, little chance for much friction. He was deeply grateful for their good wishes and would go away bearing none but the pleasantest memories of them and of Hongkong generally, and he hoped their future would be peaceful and prosperous.

DEATH OF CAPTAIN THE HON. F. M. ST. AUBYN.

We regret to have to announce the death of the Hon. F. M. St. Aubyn, R.B., which occurred on Thursday night, after a short illness. On Friday afternoon the remains of the deceased officer were interred in the cemetery at the Happy Valley in the presence of hundreds of members of both the Army and Navy. The procession, which was formed at Wellington Barracks, was an exceptionally long one and impressively imposing, and amongst those who attended the grave side of the deceased captain were Major-General Digby Barker and his staff, and the whole of the officers of the Garrison off duty. The Volunteers were represented, and there was also a big muster of civil officials and private residents. On the way to the burial ground the band of the Rifle Brigade, to which the deceased belonged, played "The Dead March," and the body was lowered into the grave with the usual military honours. The deceased officer was the third son of Lord St. Levan, and was gazetted second lieutenant in 1879, lieutenant in 1881, and captain in 1888. He was a younger brother of Major the Hon. J. T. St. Aubyn, who was aide-de-camp to Sir William des Vaux when Governor of the colony.

FIRES IN QUEEN'S ROAD.

FOUR HOUSES GUTTED.

On Saturday evening, at 6.30, a fire broke out in a tea shop at 228, Queen's Road West, occupied by Nam Hoi. The outbreak was due to the falling of a kerosine lamp which was hanging over the stairs of the ground floor. The Fire Brigade attended as speedily as possible, but the flames obtained a firm hold of the building and spread very rapidly. All the available hose was brought into play, but the efforts of the firemen could not prevent the premises on each side—Nos. 228 and 230—becoming ablaze, and in a very short time the three houses were completely gutted. Nam Hoi occupies the first floor of the three houses, and the ground floor of 226 is a samshu shop and a school, and that of 230 is occupied by a dealer in sweetmeats. The total damage is estimated at \$10,000. No. 228 is insured with Messrs. Shellhass and Co. in the Hanseatic Insurance Co. for \$4,000 and the two others houses are insured for \$2,000 each by Messrs. Siemens & Co.

Another fire broke out in Li Sing Street, Queen's Road West, at 7.15 on Sunday night. The premises are used by a rattan dealer, and when the outbreak occurred there was no one on the premises. The Fire Brigade worked for upwards of an hour and a half before they mastered the flames. The place was burnt out, and it is not yet known whether the amount of the insurance—\$2,000—covers the damage, or what the origin of the fire was.

MRS. BISHOP ON KOREA.

On Monday afternoon Mrs. Bishop gave an interesting address at the City Hall on Korea. Mrs. Bishop's books have made her name almost a household word, and naturally there was a keen desire to see and hear the well known traveller. Unfortunately the music room had been selected for the address and it proved too small to accommodate all who wished to attend. For about an hour Mrs. Bishop in pleasant conversational style recounted her impressions of the Hermit Kingdom, where she spent several months last year and another six weeks quite recently. She described the physical characteristics of the country, the manners and customs of the people, the system of administra-

tion, and the changes now in progress. Referring to the official corruption that prevails she stated that from eighteen to twenty million dollars was yearly collected as taxes, of which from five to seven million only was paid into the treasury. As an instance of how the system is worked she mentioned that in one village through which a line of telegraph was being carried the Governor made a requisition of a hundred cash per house, the Magistrate fixed the amount at two hundred, and the runners collected two hundred and fifty. Mrs. Bishop broke new ground in referring to the religion of the country, which she said was really a system of demon worship; every family would have a few thousand demons attached to it and families of importance a million or two. She also made a humorous reference to the Japanese order abolishing the use of long pipes. Formerly every Korean carried a pipe about three feet long, but now they were allowed only to use small pipes. In general she spoke favourably of the reforms introduced by the Japanese, but some of them she said were vexatious, the pipe regulation being included in the latter category. Dr. Cantlie occupied the chair, and at the close of the lecture a vote of thanks was accorded to Mrs. Bishop on the motion of H. E. Lieut-General Digby Barker seconded by the Rev. R. F. Cobbold. A collection was made at the door on behalf of the Sailors' Institute at Kowloon. This afternoon Mrs. Bishop will give an address to the Odd Volumes on Western Tibet.

SUPREME COURT.

4th March.

IN APPEAL.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT.

LEE KING & CO. v. CARLOWITZ & CO.

This was an action in which the plaintiffs claimed the sum of \$3,240.87 due under a charter party dated 19th December, 1893, for freight on a cargo of coals per *Iser* from Moji to Hongkong. Judgment was entered by consent for the plaintiffs, and certain cross-damages claimed by the defendants were referred to the Registrar. From the Registrar's decision the defendants appealed and judgment was given by the Acting Chief Justice in their favour. From this judgment the plaintiffs appealed to the Full Court. The appeal was heard on January 28th.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. V. H. Deacon), appeared for the plaintiffs, who were the appellants, and Mr. Robinson (instructed by Messrs. Johnson, Stokes, and Masters) represented the defendants and respondents.

His Lordship—It is with regret that we have to announce that we are not ready to give our judgment in this case to-day. My brother Wise, who in addition to his own duties as Acting Puisne Judge has lately kindly relieved me of most of mine as Acting Chief Justice, required some little time to look into the matter, and we were not able to meet in conference until Wednesday last when, after a short consultation, we saw it was necessary that we should further and carefully consider all the authorities cited and the facts of the case. This we have not been able to do, as at the last moment many small but important matters turned up which required to be at once dealt with; and although I very carefully considered the case before giving the judgment appealed from, yet I do not wish to give any decision after the case has been fully re-argued on appeal without a fresh examination of the authorities and further consideration of the matter. This I have not had time to do, and I regret I am not able to finally dispose of the case to-day; but as this is an appeal on a question of law only, and as Mr. Francis who appears for the appellant has been good enough to say that my judgment fully and satisfactorily set out the facts, I feel that the case can without any loss of time or difficulty be placed before the Court, with this additional and important advantage to the parties, that on the appeal they will have the benefit of the opinions of two judges who were both strangers to the judgment under review. The case will be adjourned *sine die* and Mr. Francis will apply for a re-hearing.

Mr. Robinson—My lord, if you will allow me I would like to add some remarks before the Court adjourns. I trust that the Court may see occasion to reconsider the decision, which is a hardship to the parties. I do not know what my friend will have to say, if he says anything on the matter, but for my clients I have to put it to your Lordship as a hardship that they, having been brought into this Court, and the Court having heard the whole of the case, the Court should not now dismiss the case by a judgment. I fully admit what has been said by your Lordship about the importance of the matter; it is of great importance no doubt. But the case has been twice argued before your Lordship and Mr. Wise, and I hoped you would make an effort to do justice in the matter by having the case disposed of even at the last moment before your Lordship went. The importance of the case is great, but the matter having been twice argued before your Lordship—and so far as your Lordship is concerned there are many matters pressing upon your attention—the matter having been twice argued I ask Lordship not to formulate the reasons of your decision, but to give your decision so that we may have an end of this litigation. I will put it to your Lordship that it brings a certain amount of discredit upon the process of litigation that the parties being put to the expense of an appeal should be put to the further expense of another appeal if your Lordship does not reconsider what has been said. The parties, I submit, have a right to the decision of the Court, the case having been argued before it. It is a matter of right. Your Lordship has on a previous occasion referred to the Magna Charta of England, and your Lordship will permit me now to refer to one of the best known articles of John's charter—the 40th—which says "We will deny or delay to no man right and justice." Now in this case, my lord, we have a right, I submit, to the judgment of the Court, and it will be a denial of our right if judgment be not delivered; it will be a delay of justice if it is not delivered. The parties in this case must be weary of this litigation and your decision must drive them to seek for methods of settlement in a manner other than that which is the best, and recognized as the best, method of settling disputes, namely, before the tribunals of the country. I hope your Lordship will reconsider this matter. Your Lordship has upheld so high a standard of devotion to duty that, although I am fully aware of the important demands on your attention, especially lately, I trust, my Lord, you will uphold that standard to the very end and give judgment in this case, be it what it may. So far as I am concerned nothing that falls from me will, I must respectfully say, countenance in any way the putting off of my clients' rights. I must withhold my consent and ask on the part of my clients for what is right.

His Lordship—I acknowledge the justice of many of the remarks of the learned Counsel, and I beg to tell him that I need not be reminded of my duties. There is one paramount thing I have to listen to, and that is my conscience, and I could not, having heard the case twice, conscientiously come to a decision in this matter without a further examination, and that I have not been able to give. You are perhaps doubtless aware of my feelings about an appeal. I have a very great objection to sit in appeal on my own judgment, as practically I have a casting vote which nullifies any other decision. I have already alluded to the fact that it is recognised that judges can make mistakes—must and do make mistakes. I gave the case my very best attention and I have come to a certain decision. That has been appealed against, and I regret the delay of one or two matters. Still, I am only doing justice to the parties at the present moment in refraining from giving judgment, and sending the parties before two judges who know nothing of the case. I have often seen in England that a judge has been unable to give judgment, and I am doing nothing unusual or anything which will bring a hardship upon the parties. It is merely a question of law. You have all the facts before you and one morning will dispose of the case. As I have already stated I have a great objection to sitting on my own judgment, when practically I must decide the matter. I am glad to be relieved of the responsibility and to give to the parties what I am sure will be a true and real appeal.

SUPREME COURT.

28th February.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. E. J. ACKROYD,
ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE.

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, the Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London, and China, the New Oriental Bank Corporation, Limited, and the Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris, Plaintiffs,

and
John Murray Forbes, Ng Woon Sun, Howqua, Creasy Ewens, and Ng Chow Fong, Defendants.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., and Mr. E. Robinson, instructed by Mr. A. B. Johnson (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master), appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. A. J. Leach, Q.C., and Mr. E. H. Sharp, instructed by Mr. H. L. Dennys and Mr. Creasy Ewens, represented Ng Woon Sun, Howqua, Creasy Ewens, Ng Chan Fong, Ho Tung, Ng Lai Shan, Ng Chow Wan, Ng Heung Lun, and Ng Pak Wan.

The question of costs in regard to the "added" defendants in this case was discussed at some length.

Mr. Leach said that on the 17th August an application was made to his Lordship in chambers under section 18, sub-section 4, of the Code of Civil Procedure to add certain parties to the suit because they were interested in it and he asked for the costs of those parties. He then directed his Lordship's attention to the law on the matter, and his Lordship said that the only question now was whether these particular persons were necessary parties. Mr. Leach submitted that they were necessary parties, and not only necessary but it was reasonable that they should be added in order to look after their own interests. If Mr. Francis considered that Murray Forbes, Creasy Ewens, and Ng Chow Fong sufficiently represented the parties, why did he make Howqua a beneficiary and party to the suit? It seemed to him (Mr. Leach) that there was a principle involved, and his Lordship having decided in chambers that it was fit and proper to make these persons parties the only question now was whether it was necessary, or whether there was such reasonableness in making them parties that they ought to have their costs in the event of the action ending in favour of the defendants.

His Lordship—Why should I burden the other side with double costs?

Mr. Leach—They were necessary parties to protect their interests. The suit containing charges of fraud it was necessary for us to appear and protect our interests in case of appeal. The ordinary rule ought to prevail and we ought to have costs of our attendance.

His Lordship—They were not represented by different counsel.

Mr. Leach—No; so far as the issue involved was concerned you might say that our interest was joint; but so far as the appeal is concerned we might have been compelled to oppose it. We have no third party procedure and unless we had been made parties at that stage of the proceedings we should not have had a *locus standi* to come in afterwards.

His Lordship—That is all very well. The only question in my mind is—Is it right that the losing party should pay all sets of costs because owing to the procedure in the case the defendants choose to part with their interests?

Mr. Leach—That might be a question, having regard to the fact that one set of counsel represented all the defendants, whether there should be any modification of costs.

His Lordship—It is not now a question for the Registrar. It is a question whether you should get any costs at all. The Registrar would say what costs are reasonable. The parties being all represented—all the necessary parties—and Howqua choosing to part with his interests, the other parties are joined, he still going on with the case, and is it right that the losing party should be saddled with two sets of costs?

Mr. Leach—I submit so in such a case as this; not necessarily two sets of costs, but costs. The question of what amount of costs would be left to the Registrar.

His Lordship—If I give costs there will be two sets of costs, because there was a separate solicitor.

Mr. Francis then addressed his Lordship, and called attention to the fact that so far there was no evidence of the position of these parties except one affidavit. Until his Lordship gave judgment a few days ago they had no interest whatever in the matter in dispute, and the agreement referred to in the affidavit stated that certain things were to be done and certain interests assigned in case the defendants succeeded in the suit. The added parties had no primary interest in the suit, and only a contingent interest upon the determination of the case in a certain way and upon their making certain payments. There was no evidence before the Court that they had made those payments, or that they intended to pay unless they liked. In the second place he submitted that supposing they had any interest they were fully and completely represented by the two trustees—Creasy Ewens and Ng Chow Fong. Neither of the added parties was in the least degree affected by any charge of fraud and had no legal interest in the matter. They had no right or claim to be added as defendants unless they bore their own costs and their actions were long anterior to the commencement of the suit. Nothing that the plaintiffs could have done, if the case had been decided in their favour, could have in the least affected the added parties, and he submitted that they had no right whatever to appear, as there had been nothing said from beginning to end which they had any interest in defending. He did not say, of course, that his Lordship had done what was not right in allowing them to come in.

His Lordship—I had not much to do with it. If I remember rightly it was a matter of consent. Mr. Francis—I do not see that we had any right in preventing them coming if they thought fit.

Mr. Francis concluded by asking his Lordship to allow his clients costs of the original application in chambers, and not to allow any costs of proceedings since that day.

His Lordship—I am of opinion that, under all the circumstances of this case, the added defendants were not necessary. I had no objection in chambers on the affidavit put in to allow them to appear and watch the case, but I was not entitled to give them costs until I was quite sure that it was necessary for them to appear. The subsequent evidence and the conduct of the case show to me that it was not necessary. They were fully and ably represented by the trustees, the defendants who were already in the case; and in fact their interests or their names were never mentioned except on the first day when Mr. Leach said whom he appeared for and until this question of costs arose. I am quite sure that if they had not taken any steps their interests were in safe hands and well safe-guarded, and under these circumstances I do not think it would be right or just for the plaintiffs to bear a double set of costs.

Mr. Francis—The costs of the application in chambers you will allow to us?

His Lordship—Yes, the costs of the application in chambers.

Costs of the summons to be allowed to plaintiffs; costs of added defendants in the suit refused, and costs of present application to the plaintiffs.

1st March.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. E. J. ACKROYD,
ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE.

Darmanaden Prouchandy, Plaintiff,
and

Chee Wo & Co., Chan Chee, Pang Ling, The Kwong Tak Hing Wo Kee Firm, Chan Wai Hing, and Pang Fuk Ming, Defendants.

The plaintiff was represented by Mr. A. J. Leach, Q.C., and Mr. E. S. Sharp, instructed by Mr. J. Hastings (of Mr. V. B. Deacon's office); the defendants were represented by Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley (of Mr. H. L. Dennys's office).

His Lordship in giving judgment in the above case said—This is a suit entered by Darmanaden Prouchandy, a merchant of Saigon, against Chee Wo & Co., of Wing Lok Street, merchant, Chan Chee and Pang Ling, partners of that firm, The Kwong Tak Hing Wo Kee firm, ship-builders, Chan Wai Hing, a partner in that firm,

and Pang Fuk Ming, a merchant, for the non-performance of a contract dated the 26th day of January, 1894, made between Messrs. Chee Wo & Co. of the one part and the said plaintiff of the other part, whereby the said Chee Wo & Co. agreed to build and deliver to the plaintiff four three steamers, viz:—

- 1.—One steamer, as per specification of details to the said contract attached, for the sum of dollars eighteen thousand three hundred \$18,300.00
- 2.—One small steamer, as per specification of details aforesaid for the sum of dollars four thousand two hundred. 4,200.00
- 3.—One small steamer, as per specification of details aforesaid, for the sum of dollars four thousand 4,000.00

\$26,500.00

Agreed for the said three steamers twenty-six thousand five hundred dollars Hongkong currency. The said D. Prouchandy was to delivery of the three (3) steamers completed and after satisfactory trial, with series mentioned in these specifications; of the first steamer must be 10 knots and two launches not less than 8 knots, and to be in the following manner:—

First \$ 7,575.00 on signing the agreement

Second \$ 5,575.00 two months and a half signing agreement

Third \$13,350.00 on delivery of the steamers

\$26,500.00

The said three steamers to be completed ready for sea within five (5) calendar months from the 15th January to 15th June. Twenty-five dollars (25) for each day's delay over the time said after 15th June, 1894. All trials must be completed or accepted. Any alteration or deviation from the terms of the specification required by D. Prouchandy's representative or arrestation of the work by force major to nullify this clause, but the matter must be given by writing. The due performance of the said agreement by the defendants Chee Wo & Co. was guaranteed at the foot thereof by the defendants the said Kwong Tak Hing Wo Kee firm, Chan Wai Hing, and Pang Fuk Ming. The said respective specifications referred to in the said agreement are thereto annexed, and provide (inter alia) that as regards the first or larger steamer the draft thereof should be six feet with 1,700 piculs and bunker coal on board, and that her speed on trial should be 10 knots an hour, and that as regards the second and third or small steamers that they should be built and completed concurrently with the first or larger steamer, so that they could proceed in company to their destination. The said suit has been withdrawn as regards the said Pang Fuk Ming. The plaintiff alleges that at the time of entering into the said contract the defendants Chee Wo & Co. had been informed by the plaintiff and well knew that the said steamers were intended for use upon a shallow river, and that the specified draft should not be exceeded. That the said steamers were not constructed and delivered on the 15th day of June aforesaid, and were never constructed and completed in accordance with the said agreement. That at the trial trips the big launch did not attain 10 knots an hour, and one of the smaller steamers did not attain 8 knots an hour. That the large launch with 1,700 piculs aboard drew more than 6 feet, and is useless for the purpose for which it was intended. That all the steamers are of inferior workmanship and badly constructed, and they have annexed to their petition the particulars of the said defects. And they claim:—1st. That the defendants or some or one of them may be ordered to pay to the plaintiff the sum of \$20,742.71, together with interest thereon, or on so much thereof as to the Court may seem fit, from the date of the writ of summons herein until payment at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum. 2nd. That all necessary accounts and enquiries may be taken and made. 3rd. That the defendants may be ordered to pay to the plaintiff all costs of suit. And that the plaintiff may have such further or other relief in the premises as to the Court may seem meet. The defendants, after denying that there is any partnership or firm in existence of the name Chee Wo & Co. and other matters referred to in the first clause, admit the contract. They deny the statement that they were informed of the character of the river on which the boats were to be used.

or that they were to be used on a river. They admit that the steamers were not ready for delivery by the 15th day of June. They state they were completed and ready for delivery on the 18th of August last, and say they were prevented from completing the steamers in time owing to the prevalence of the plague, and the impossibility of obtaining workmen and engineers. The defendants deny the statement that the steamers were not built in accordance with the specifications, that they did not attain the guaranteed speed of 10 knots, and one of the smaller ones did not attain the guaranteed speed of 8 knots. They deny the statement that the larger steamer with 1,700 piculs of cargo and bunker coal drew upwards of six feet water, and that she was useless for the purpose aforesaid. From this petition and answer the questions at issue appear to me to be:—1.—Was the said Chan Chee informed at the time that the large steamer was intended for shallow rivers, and that the specified draft was not to be exceeded? 2.—Is it exceeded? 3.—Have the steamers attained the guaranteed speed after a satisfactory trial trip? 4.—Whether they are built according to the specifications? 5.—Was the said defendant prevented by the plague from constructing the said steamers? 6.—Were the said steamers built according to the specifications? I will deal with the minor points first. The specifications are very vague; for instance, they state that "all through fastenings of Muntz metal," without stating positively that the launch is to be through fastened throughout. Captain Burnie says she does not answer to that requirement, because the planking is fastened with spikes. This is, he says, a matter of great importance. The vessel is stronger with through fastenings, while with spike fastenings she is likely to open out. She showed signs of weakness of construction, as there was considerable wrinkling of the sheathing on the large launch; to strip her, re-fasten, and re-copper her would cost \$2,000. That the launch is built much the same as other Chinese launches. She is fastened the same way as an ordinary Chinese built boat, except that she is single fastened in the keelson *and* stringer, and the ordinary Chinese built boat is double fastened. Captain Anderson says that her stringers are through fastened. The keelson is fastened with metal bolts. The stringers are all through fastened. She is similar in all respects to the ordinary run of Chinese built boats. He thinks she is as well and strongly built as Chinese built launches. They usually put through bolts through every second floor; he cannot speak as to the number of bolts, but he thinks she is so bolted; she is not structurally defective for river work.

Mr. Francis—His opinion was that it was bolted through in every timber, my lord.

His Lordship—Afterwards he said in cross-examination that he had not been able to ratify that statement; it was merely what he was told.

His Lordship (continuing)—If she was through fastened she would cost about \$25,000. He understood she was going to the Mekong river; he judged she was to be used on a river. He does not think she could proceed to Saigon during the north-east monsoon, and he would not recommend her for insurance. He also speaks of the want of some stanchions and of a wooden crossbeam in front of the boiler, which prevents the door of the boiler opening as it should. He says that it would be unsafe to remove this beam, but that the door could be easily otherwise suspended. I do not gather from the specifications that she was to be through fastened throughout, and after considering the evidence of Captain Burnie and Captain Anderson I am of opinion that although the vessel is not first class workmanship, the large launch, barring certain small defects and omissions, is built to comply substantially with the specifications. With regard to speed, the evidence of Mr. Johnston shows that on the first trial trip, the large launch averaged only 9.75, and that the result of the trial trip was not according to the specification. Chan Chee had further trials made under the superintendence of Mr. Kinghorn on the 27th September. She went only 9.30, but on examining the engines, some little defect was discovered, and this being put right another trial was made on the 3rd October, when a speed of 10.16 was attained. It appears no notice was given to the plaintiff of this trial, and although Mr. Kinghorn says that all the conditions of the specifications are satisfied, I am of opinion that notice

should have been given to the plaintiff of this further trial. I find on the evidence that the defendants and Hip Tai Loong have not satisfactorily proved to me that it was impossible for them to procure more workmen, or that they were delayed solely by the plague. I now come to the chief point in dispute, which is, was the defendant informed that a certain depth of water was not to be exceeded? Was this specially brought to his notice? First we have the evidence of the contract itself, which fixes the depth at six feet. Then there is the evidence of Captain Lawrence and Demee. With respect to Captain Lawrence's evidence it has been sought to throw complete discredit on it by stating that he could not possibly have done all that he says he did, nor been present at the interviews stated on account of the short stay in this harbour of his vessel the *Taichow*. He stated in his evidence that he was in harbour for 10 or 11 days, whilst the official evidence from the Harbour Office shows that she arrived here on the 1st and cleared on the 11th; that her stay being so short his duties on board ship could not possibly have permitted his being on shore so often. Leaving out of consideration for the moment the direct evidence, let us see what are the probabilities. The contract describes Mr. Prouchandy as of Saigon, and provides for a maximum draft of water. Captain Anderson speaks of the vessel being built for river work and structurally fit for river. Chan Chee in his evidence states he did not know where Prouchandy came from nor did he tell him what the launches were wanted for. There is another fact to be noticed. Chan Chee says that he knew Prouchandy in August or September, 1893; that he wanted to buy a steam launch and came to his shop. He wanted to buy the *Chu Kam* steamer. She was in Macao. Her dimensions were 120 or 130 feet long, 18 feet beam, and draft 7 feet. He went to Macao and examined, but did not buy, because the price asked was too high—\$26,000. He made no lower offer and there was no bargain. He gave no other reason, and he, Chan Chee, did not know what Prouchandy wanted the launch for. Prouchandy was not asked about his reasons for not purchasing this launch, but in answer to a question from me Demee, who went over to Macao with Prouchandy and Chan Chee, says that the reason she was rejected was that she drew too much water. Captain Lawrence says that the boat at Macao was rejected because she drew too much water and that Chan Chee knew this. This seems more probable than Chan Chee's account that the boat was at once rejected because the price was too high without there being any bargain or any attempt to come to terms by the parties, one of whom wanted to buy a launch and the other to sell; and if she was rejected because she drew too much water, is it not probable that Chan Chee knew it, and when he came to build a launch expressly for the plaintiff his attention would have been drawn to this requirement and explanations given to him why this condition was inserted in the contract. Now what is the direct evidence on this point. Ernest Herbert Lawrence said he is a master mariner, holding a London certificate. He is chief officer of the *Pasig*. He speaks a little French. He has known Prouchandy since July or August, 1893, and has known Chan Chee about a year and a half. After speaking of certain plans which he had prepared for the big launch, he says it was principally on account of the purposes for which the launches were intended that he was with Prouchandy. He discussed the plans with Chan Chee at the Victoria Hotel and once at the Windsor. He had several conversations with Chan Chee before the specifications were made. He explained to Chan Chee that the launches were required for going on shallow rivers and to go against strong currents. He explained to him about the draft. He asked Chan Chee for five feet, if possible, but not to exceed six feet, fully loaded with passengers and cargo. That was told to him on two occasions. That he perfectly remembered. He told him the launches were required on the rapids in the rivers of Cambodia. Chan Chee told him he could build them with the desired speed and draft, and he fully understood what was required. He (Lawrence) had nothing to do with preparing the specifications or the contract. In cross-examination he said that the draft was a particular with all, and that Prouchandy asked him to explain to Chan Chee what was wanted. Alfred Constance B. Demee, who was

also called as a witness. He speaks English, French, and Chinese. He was employed as interpreter to Prouchandy in August, 1893, and again in January, 1894. He says he acted as interpreter throughout these negotiations. Captain Lawrence was present on two occasions when he was there. He explained to Chan Chee the nature of the boats in presence of Captain Lawrence. This was about the third interview. He told Chan Chee that the boat was to be 120 feet long, by 18 or 19 feet beam, and have a draft not exceeding six feet. He told him who Prouchandy was, and that the boat was to go on the rapids of the Cambodian river. The boat was to have speed enough to go up the rapids, to draw little water, and to be delivered at a certain time. The draft was to be five feet. He told him this, and it was repeated by Captain Lawrence on two or three occasions. The speed and draft were mentioned in presence of Captain Lawrence. Chan Chee said he could undertake what he had to do. He (Demee) was not employed by Prouchandy on the 15th January. He had a dispute with him about a third party, and after the dispute he worked no longer with him, and has not been friendly with Prouchandy since. He said in answer to me that he went to see a steamer of Chan Chee at Macao. That steamer was too big. She drew too much water. The defendant Chan Chee says that Prouchandy did not tell him what the launches were wanted for. He did not know where Prouchandy came from. He did not give him any particulars as to speed or draft, and no plans or drawings, but that later on he made a plan and took it to Prouchandy. He again repeated that nothing was said about what the launches were wanted for and nothing was said as to draft or speed. He then said an agreement and specification were given to him. His accountant read over and explained them to him. He knew then what the draft and speed was. He never spoke to Lawrence. Lawrence was never there at any time when he was speaking to Prouchandy. No one ever told him where Prouchandy came from, what he did, and what he wanted the boats for. The plaintiff, after discussing the rivers or branches of rivers on which he intended to employ these steamers and the depths of water at various periods of the year, says that he had Chan Chee constantly coming to him after he had broken off with Fenwick, and that he gave instructions to Lawrence and Demee in order that they should transmit them to Chan Chee; that when the big launch was completed he refused to take delivery of her, because she drew too much water. She had not the required speed, and the hull was not duly fastened. That if he had been able to make use of the boat, he would have taken delivery of her. He said that he left it to Chan Chee and Demee to arrange everything. They prepared the specifications. If this evidence is to be believed there can be no doubt that Chan Chee was informed of the service for which this launch was required and of the necessity there was that she should not draw over a certain depth. As I have already remarked, the probabilities are that he was so informed. It is not likely that he would have entered into this contract with a stranger without knowing who he was, where he came from, his business, and what, if any, were the risks he ran as to the payment of the price of the launch. It is also difficult to believe that the steam launch at Macao was rejected solely on account of the price demanded. The evidence both of Captain Lawrence and Demee on this point was given in answer to questions put by me, and I do not think that they could have prearranged what they were going to say. There is no doubt the boats were wanted for river service; what more natural, then, than that a limited depth of water being only available Chan Chee should have been warned why this requirement was inserted in the contract for the large steamer. But what grounds are there for rejecting the evidence of Lawrence and Demee on this point. Why should Lawrence perjure himself? Some doubt may be thrown on his evidence from the fact he was only a short time here and must have had his duties to attend to on board his ship, but we do not know if they took up all his time and the only benefit he was going to derive from the contract was that he was going to take the vessel to Saigon; and as to Demee's evidence I see no reason to doubt it, nor is any alleged why I should reject it. He was employed as a clerk in the French Consulate and when Prouchandy wanted an interpreter he was recommended by the

Consul. And he acted till the 14th January, when he had some quarrel with Prouhandy and left him. Mr. Francis contends that even if every word that Lawrence and Demee say is true there was not even then sufficient to impress on Chan Chee's mind the all importance of the question of draft; that having completed his vessel according to the dimensions given he has substantially completed his contract. He says the question of draft is a question of beam, but no evidence has been given on this point. Draft may be a question of lines. The specification says that the draft on the 1,700 piculs and bunker coal is to be six feet. That I am of opinion means that with the 700 piculs on board and otherwise completely ready for steaming she is to draw 6 ft. Therefore she should have a certain amount of coal on board, water in the boiler sufficient for working, and her anchor and chains on board. The report shows her draft to be as follows:—Much has been said and a good deal of evidence given as to what was the contract originally entered into between Prouhandy and Chan Chee. Was it for the large steam launch and one small one, or was it the contract which is now sued on? The plaintiffs and Demee both say the present contract was the only one entered into between the parties, whilst the defendant contends that there was at first a contract for the one large steam launch and for one small one only, and that such a contract was actually signed before the French Consul; that afterwards the plaintiff wanted another launch, the contract or contracts were detached from the specifications and destroyed, and a new one signed in Marty's office. Both parties seem very positive on the point, but I do not see what difference it would make or what interest either party could have in not stating what was the truth on this point. I believe neither party can read English, and it is therefore probable that one or perhaps both are labouring under some mistake on this question. I cannot see why Prouhandy should deny it if there were two contracts, nor why Chan Chee should contend there were, as it makes no difference to either of them. And also the same may be said of the plan. No plan is mentioned in the specification; if Lawrence had prepared a plan and Chan Chee had built according to it, and the boat did not then fulfil the conditions, this fact would, if Chan Chee had accepted the plan, have greatly exculpated Chan Chee. I find therefore that Chan Chee was informed for what purpose the boat was required and was told that the specified depth should not be exceeded. The plaintiff in his evidence has fully described his business, the river on which the steamer was intended to ply, and how he intended to employ her, and has sworn that as she draws so much more than six feet, she is useless. No evidence has been called to contradict this. It has been proved that instead of carrying 1,700 piculs on a six feet draft, she will carry only about two thirds of that. The question is, then, can I oblige the plaintiff to accept the launch by awarding him as damages such a sum as would compensate him for this loss of freight? I am of opinion that the proportion of loss is so great that it is most probable that to run the launch only two-thirds full would be to do so continually at a loss; therefore the plaintiff would be forced to discontinue trading with her. I am of opinion that the large launch does not fulfil the requirements of the contract and that the plaintiff should not be forced to take her. I have now to consider whether the contract is a divisible one or not. That is a question difficult to decide. The contract provides for the building of three steamers for three separate prices, which are set out. The payments are not proportioned to these prices, but are to be made on the total price. The three steamers are to be completed and ready for sea by a certain date, and there is one penalty of \$25 per day. Suppose that instead of the large launch not being acceptable, the fault was with the two small ones, and that without them the large one would be useless, as having no feeders on the branch lines, would it be reasonable, when plaintiffs had contracted for three, to make him take one. And Prouhandy was to take delivery of the three when completed and after satisfactory trials—and only one penalty is provided. I hold, therefore, that the contract was not divisible, and that Prouhandy cannot be called upon to take delivery of the two smaller ones without the large one. The judgment of the Court is that the large launch does not fulfil the specifications

of the contract; that she is not fit for the service intended, and that the plaintiff has the right to repudiate the whole contract. The defendants are condemned to pay back the sum of \$13,150 received by the plaintiff, with interest at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum from the date of payment up to this day. The sum of \$14,400 should be allowed if proved. There is nothing in the contract about paying for superintendence and therefore that item is disallowed, but as I have not heard the parties I will refer that item and also the charges for the report and survey of Captain Burnie, Mr. Johnston and Captain Chodzko, and for the telegrams, to the Registrar, although I should have thought that instead of being claimed in this manner they might have been included in the bill of costs. As for the sum of \$520 charged for two bills of Prouhandy, I have heard no argument or evidence on the point and therefore that also will be referred to the Registrar to decide not only the amount but whether the sum should be allowed at all. I disallow the sum of \$6,900 claimed for loss of profits. Costs to follow the event. This is the judgment of the Court and what follows therefore forms no part of it. I am going to make a remark which I have no doubt is very unusual for a Judge to make. I have no doubt this judgment will satisfy neither party, but I think both ought to be satisfied with it, because both are to blame for the position in which they are placed, Prouhandy for having signed and accepted such a contract without having any advice. He should have placed himself in the hands of a reliable firm and sought professional and independent advice, and if he speaks the truth when he says that the large launch is useless he should consider himself very fortunate in not being obliged to take her, even if he has not obtained all that he asked for. Chan Chee is to blame because the large launch does not fulfil the conditions of the contract as to draft, for the delay which took place, the defective cross-beam, and other details, and for the unsatisfactory trials, and for not calling upon Prouhandy to be present at the subsequent ones. If one launches are as good as he says they are he should be able to sell them with less loss than if I had obliged the plaintiff to take them and allowed him the penalty of \$25 per diem up to to-day with a reduction in the price of the large launch to compensate for the loss of cargo by the extra draft.

His Lordship—There is another question of costs in regard to one of the defendants in the suit which was withdrawn.

Mr. Francis—Yes my lord.

His Lordship—Do you apply for costs.

Mr. Francis—Yes, my lord. I should ask for his costs and I also ask your lordship to decide the minor points at once in order to save parties expense and loss of time.

His Lordship—It is very possible you may agree about the sand ball-st. I think all the costs necessary for the trial should be paid by the defendants.

Mr. Francis—That was not specified in the contract; it was not specified who was to make the trial.

His Lordship—Would it not be better to discuss that before the Registrar?

Mr. Francis—The amounts at stake are so small and are not really worth the trouble and expense of going before the Registrar, especially considering the amount of time that has already been spent over the case. Your Lordship has disposed of the principal items.

His Lordship—Yes.

Mr. Francis—Captain Burnie's survey bill is a matter which your lordship might decide at once, and say whether we should be made to pay for the survey and report made by Captain Burnie solely in the interests of the plaintiff.

His Lordship—I have not seen that report; it is possible that the report might have been necessary. That is a matter which might be considered when the bill of costs comes to be discussed.

Mr. Francis—I do not think it is possible that the report was made in view of litigation. It was almost a matter of course after making such a contract that a good survey should be made on the plaintiff's own responsibility to see whether the specifications were complied with.

His Lordship—I would like to do what you ask, but I haven't the time. Then the case are the telegrams.

Mr. Francis—I intended to ask your Lordship to make an inquiry into what we did not go into.

His Lordship—The charges for Captain Burnie's report and for the telegrams could be very easily included in the bill of costs. Unless there is some strong authority in favour of it I should not be inclined to grant damages. Of course if there are strong authorities in favour of such damages being allowed I would consider the matter, but I would rather that the thing should be discussed before I decide, and therefore as my time is getting so short I thought it would be better to refer the matter to the Registrar.

Mr. Leach—Judgment for plaintiff, and costs to be paid by him?

His Lordship—Yes.

Mr. Leach—Separate costs have been incurred.

His Lordship—That is a matter for the Registrar. There are regular rules for taking costs where three or four defendants have had the same solicitor. There ought to be no difficulty about it.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

The fortnightly meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the afternoon of the 28th ult. under the presidency of Mr. F. H. May (Vice-President). There were also present Hon. F. A. Cooper, Director of Public Works, Dr. P. B. C. Ayres, Colonial Surgeon; Hon. Ho Kai, Dr. Hartigan, Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., Mr. R. K. Leigh, and Mr. H. McCallum, Secretary.

AN APPLICATION WITHDRAWN.

A letter was read from Inspector Germain, Senior Inspector, withdrawing his application for leave.

AN ADDITIONAL CLERK WANTED.

The SECRETARY asked to be allowed an additional clerk as of late there had been a considerable increase in the work of the office. It was first of all suggested that a clerk should be employed at a salary of \$20 a month. Mr. FRANCIS, however, thought this insufficient, as it would be well to get a clerk who could copy letters and fill up various forms. It would be better to employ a European or an intelligent Portuguese, at a salary of \$70 or \$80 a month. The Board adopted this suggestion, and resolved to write to the Governor for permission to employ an extra clerk.

THE DRAINAGE OF THE CITY.

The following letter was submitted from the Acting Colonial Secretary:—

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 18th February, 1895.

Sir.—In reply to your letter No. 10 of the 13th inst. I am directed to state for the information of the Sanitary Board that the Government consider it advisable to deal first with those blocks which are within the drainage areas of the existing storm water drains discharging into the harbour between Murray Pier and Jubilee Street, and that when these are completed those blocks within the drainage areas of the existing storm water drains discharging into the harbour between Morrison Street and Whitty Street should be proceeded with.—I have, etc.

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary, Sanitary Board.

THE STAFF OF THE NEW CENTRAL MARKET.

The Colonial Veterinary Surgeon (Mr. C. V. Ladds) wrote in connection with the staff of the New Central Market. He said:—

So far as I can see at present it will not be necessary to make any new appointments, with the exception of the overseer as recommended in my report dated 2nd February. Twelve coolies will, I think, be sufficient to attend to the cleansing of the market, viz., three in each section. They should be under the control of the overseer, and, as in the case of all the other markets, the premises would be under the immediate supervision and control of the assistant Inspector of Markets and myself.

WATER CLOSETS.

The Board proceeded to consider the report of the Committee appointed to consider the advisability or otherwise of permitting the adoption of water closets and their connection with the public sewers in the city of Victoria. The report, which will be found below, was adverse to water closets.

Dr. HARTIGAN—I beg to move the adoption of the report.

Dr. HO KAI seconded.

Hon. F. A. COOPER—I call attention to one or two matters which should be looked to before the report is adopted.

Mr. FRANCIS—Mr. Cooper suggests that at the top of the second page, paragraph two, a modification is needed to prevent mistakes, and

he suggests that the sentence should run, "inhabited or used in the main by Chinese." And in the same section Mr. Cooper suggests an alteration in the last line "on the finding by the Board that the system of removal by hand carriage was inapplicable." He substitutes the word "is" for "was."

Hon. F. A. COOPER—I move as an amendment to the motion that the Board adopt the recommendations of the Committee in the report. The Committee have recommended that the attention of the Board be given to improving in every way the system of hand carriage. In looking over the reasons which are given I see they are all of a prophetic nature and I am certainly not prepared to commit myself to the opinions expressed therein. If we agree to the recommendations I shall be very happy to vote for the adoption of the report. The reasons are not facts but opinions.

Mr. FRANCIS—I move that a Committee be appointed to give effect to these recommendations.

The opinion was generally expressed that there was no need to add further powers to give effect to the recommendations, and Mr. FRANCIS withdrew his motion. The report was thereupon adopted with the modifications and recommendations.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The death-rate for the week ended February 16th was 18.9 per 1,000 per annum as compared with 22.5 in the corresponding week last year. For the week ended February 23rd the death-rate was 18.9 as compared with 16.5 in the corresponding week last year.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Board then adjourned until Monday at 4.15, when the by-laws under the Insanitary Dwellings Ordinance will be discussed.

SHOULD WATER CLOSETS BE PERMITTED?

The following report by a Committee of the Sanitary Board on the question of the advisability or otherwise of permitting the adoption of water closets and their connection with the public sewers in the city of Victoria was laid before the Board at its meeting on the 28th ult.

The Committee originally consisted of J. J. Francis, Q.C., Surgeon-Major James, and R. K. Leigh, M.I.C.E.

The Committee held several meetings and examined the Board's Surveyor, Mr. J. R. Crook, and the Acting Secretary, Mr. E. Ram.

They also drew up a list of questions to which it was decided to invite answers from the doctors, engineers, and architects, and some of the principal owners of property, and others.

At this stage Surgeon-Major James was ordered north in connection with the China and Japan war, but his views on the matter were made known to and were in accord with the remaining two members of the Committee.

The questions, of which a copy is annexed, were sent out to 39 men, and after some considerable delay answers were received from the following 19:—

E. Mackintosh, Dr. Stedman, Colonel Preston, G. C. Anderson, Inspector Germain, Captain Ramsey, R.N., G. Sharp, Dr. Knott, Hon. F. A. Cooper, Dr. Hartigan, W. E. Crow, H. McCallum, W. St. Hancock, Dr. Cantlie, Dr. Gerlach, Dr. Marques, J. Orange, C. Palmer, and Captain Hastings, R.N.

These answers are all annexed, and from them it will be seen that practically all these gentlemen are against the introduction of water closets generally into the city.

To these must also be added the Acting Secretary, Mr. E. Ram, who was decidedly against their introduction generally and for the Chinese.

On the other hand the only man examined or who replied to the questions who was in favour of the general introduction of water closets was the Board's Surveyor, Mr. J. R. Crook.

The Committee have also carefully considered the report of Mr. Jas. Macritchie, M.I.C.E., Municipal Engineer of Singapore, dated 31st July, 1893, who, after a three months' tour to the principal towns of India for the express purpose of inspecting the different systems of drainage and reporting to the Municipality of Singapore, was of opinion that water closets are not suitable to the native and Chinese population of that town.

The Committee have also considered the report of a Committee of this Board consisting of

Dr. Ho Kai, O. Chadwick, C.E., and the Hon. S. Brown, Surveyor General, dated 5th June, 1890, on the question of latrines in this city. In this report they state it is undesirable to provide closet accommodation in Chinese houses "because of the condition of dwellings in the colony and the habits of the Chinese people. The design of houses is such as to render the provision of suitable closets for all the members of the household almost impracticable; even if constructed it would be exceedingly difficult to have them supervised by the Board's officers."

The members of the Committee were from the first opposed to the introduction into the colony of water closets generally, and, with such a consensus of opinion in their favour, they have now not the least hesitation in expressing their decided opinion that:—

1.—The introduction of water closets should be restricted and discouraged as much as possible, and permits for their erection should only be granted in respect of large European hotels, clubs, and blocks of offices where the great number of Europeans frequenting the buildings renders it very difficult or impossible to apply the system of hand-carriage.

2.—No permits should, under any circumstances, be given in respect of any buildings inhabited or used by Chinese, and no permit for any building, except after special examination and report and on a finding by the Board that the system of removal by hand-carriage was inapplicable.

3.—No permits should be issued in respect of any building unless provision is made by the applicant, by the construction of cisterns or otherwise, for the adequate flushing of such water closets during the dry season or at any time when the supply of water from the mains is cut off for any part of the day from any cause.

Our reasons are as follows:—

1.—That the introduction into the sewers of large quantities of excreta, however carefully managed, is, in this climate and under the local conditions under which the city is built on the side of a steep hill, a probable cause of danger to the health of the inhabitants and almost certain to cause disagreeable stenches.

2.—That the sewer outfalls, discharging as they do into the harbour, and in view of the rapid silting up of the foreshore and the absence of any current through the harbour and out to sea (all the ebb and flood being through the Lyemou Pass), would in the course of time cause a dangerous nuisance along the sea shore and seriously defile the waters of the harbour.

3.—That the habits and modes of living of the Chinese population and the construction of their houses are wholly unsuitable and render the introduction of water closets among them out of the question.

4.—That even for the European portion of the town the introduction of water closets, even if otherwise desirable, is out of the question in view of the inadequacy of the water supply for general public requirements. If water closets came into general use, an additional abundant supply of water over and above any now contemplated would be required for flushing purposes.

5.—That not merely would immense expense have to be incurred in providing additional water, but an intercepting sewer along the length of the city, outfalls beyond North Point, and expensive pumping stations would be required, besides the loss of the present revenue derived from the sale of the night soil.

The Committee further recommend that the attention of the Board be given to improving in every way the present system of hand-carriage.

R. K. LEIGH.

JNO. J. FRANCIS.

The following minutes were attached:—

Dr. HARTIGAN—The Surveyor can now hardly be said to be in favour of water closets.

Mr. J. J. FRANCIS—It seems to me a very curious statement that the night soil contractor recoups himself by a charge made on each household in the city. I have always understood that the payments made by householders were made to coolies unconnected with and independent of the contractor. I should like to hear Mr. McCallum on that point.

Hon. F. A. COOPER—Opinions 1 and 2 appear somewhat contradictory. Should not the word "exclusively" be inserted in 2 before the words "by Chinese"? I agree generally with the recommendations of the Committee, though I am unable to concur in the reasons given in support of such recommendations. I would like to direct the attention of those interested in the subjects of the questions circulated to—(a) the report of the Special Committee of the Sanitary Institute on the quantity of water required to flush water closets, vol. xiv. Journal Sanitary Institute; (b) the paper by Dr. R. Thorne Thorne, C.B., F.R.S., on the etiology, spread, and prevention of diphtheria, vol. xv. Journal Sanitary Institute.

The SECRETARY—With regard to Mr. Francis's minute I did not observe Mr. Crook's remark until I saw the minute. I saw him and he said he was in error. I now append the following minute:—"I certainly was under the impression that the night soil coolies were practically if not actually under the control of the contractor; I admit to be wrong and can only express my admiration at the working of the system of such advantages."

HONGKONG BRITISH MERCANTILE MARINE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday evening Captain H. C. A. Harris read a paper at the rooms of the Hongkong British Mercantile Marine Officer's Association on "Our association: its members and their peculiarities."

Captain Harris prefaced his paper by stating that it had often been suggested that the members of the Association should have a series of readings and he thought the suggestion was an excellent one. He had therefore given the idea a start by addressing a few words about themselves. The Association had been in existence for five years and had started from a humble beginning. It had been successful in its endeavours to abolish Sunday cargo work, and it was now sought to get the British certificate only for the British subject. He did not say that they had more right to be employed under their own flag, but they constantly heard about the scarcity of British seamen, that there were not men enough to man our ships, and that there were not so many as there used to be, while there were always a good many foreigners ready to serve. He believed that better behaviour was expected of Jack than in former times, but he did not believe that the Dutchman was the better man. When Jack was drunk he wanted to fight, but when there was serious trouble it was Hans who stuck the knife into the first mate and not Jack. The reader then spoke of the various classes of members in the Association and their peculiarities, and said that what was needed was more *esprit de corps*. This was the only British Association in the Far East, and yet the members did not hang together very well. If they took fifty-five members they would be sure to give vent to fifty various opinions. The Association was sadly in want of the recruiting spirit. The speaker concluded by asking for the opinions of members, but no one ventured to offer any, and Captain Harris said that the members did not take a live interest in the Association. There were twenty members in port, and yet only seven were present. One member said that as a rule the members liked to stop aboard at night; the ship was his home. Captain Harris then remarked that he would be very much more pleased if he were at home than speaking in that room. It was an extraordinary thing that although this was the third shipping port in the world, they could not make a very strong Association. The average life of a man as a member was about five months; and he did not suppose there were more than twenty names on the list of members who had been connected with the Association more than twelve months.

A Tainanfu telegram of the 24th February to the N. C. Daily News says:—The military authorities here have captured a man supposed to be connected with a band of Japanese emissaries, who are believed to have caused the recent disastrous explosion at the Chi'ou forts. The loss of life is estimated at a little over 200, but the destruction of the arms and ammunition stored up in those forts is said to amount to a very large sum.

THE GAOL REPORT.

The following report of the Superintendent of Victoria Gaol for 1894 was laid before the Legislative Council on Wednesday last:—

Victoria Gaol, Superintendent's Office,
Hongkong, 28th January, 1895.

Sir,—I have the honour to forward for the information of His Excellency the Governor the annual report on the Victoria Gaol for 1894.

2.—The total number of admissions was 3,913, of which number 753 had been previously convicted. The number of old offenders admitted during the last two years is nearly 49 per cent. less than in 1892.

3.—The daily average number confined in the Gaol was 455 as compared with 458 in 1893. During the months of July, August, and September the daily average number of prisoners was greatly reduced owing to the effect on the colony of the epidemic of bubonic plague. The numbers for those three months were 401, 398, and 404 respectively. The lowest number in gaol on any one day was 373 on the 11th August, but as the epidemic disappeared the number increased till the daily total reached 539 on the 10th December.

4.—There were 5,120 offences against prison discipline committed during the year, being 11.27 offences to each prisoner as compared with 11.15 in 1893.

5.—The sanitary state of the Gaol was good. There were three cases of bubonic plague, the first case being noticed on the 21st May. The prisoner, who was discharged on the afternoon of that day, had been two days in gaol. In the second case the prisoner was admitted to gaol on the 5th June, was admitted to hospital on the 8th, and was released on the 14th June. In the third case the prisoner was admitted to gaol on the 12th June, was admitted to hospital on the 20th, and was released on the 21st June. The Gaol Medical Officer informs me that he is of opinion that in no case was the disease contracted in the Gaol. All prisoners were subjected to a searching medical examination on admission before they were told off to cells, and every precaution was taken to prevent the disease from spreading.

6.—Attention has been directed during the year to the very large number of prisoners on light labour by order of the Medical Officer. The daily average number of these prisoners was 105, or about 23 per cent. of the prisoners in gaol. This is a very large proportion and under such conditions the Gaol becomes an asylum.

7.—The amount paid into the Treasury during the year on account of industrial labour was \$382.33 less than in 1893. This is due to the decreased profit on the oakum sold, owing to the further increased cost of paper stuff.

8.—The daily average number of females was 14. The want of proper accommodation for female prisoners has been severely felt.

9.—The record of casualties in the staff shows that 48 third class turnkeys, 4 second class guards, and 1 nurse of the female prison joined during the year; 1 second class and 22 third class turnkeys and 1 second class guard were dismissed for misconduct; 2 third class turnkeys deserted and the services of 7 third class turnkeys were dispensed with, being found useless; 2 second class and 9 third class turnkeys, 1 first and 1 second class guard, and 1 nurse of the female prison resigned their appointments; 1 first class turnkey was invalided; 1 third class turnkey and 1 Indian sergeant were pensioned; 1 third class turnkey was transferred to the Sanitary Department; 2 second class and 4 third class turnkeys were promoted to the rank of first and second class turnkeys respectively, and 1 second class guard died.

10.—These figures I submit speak for themselves and clearly show how extremely unsatisfactory the condition of the staff was during the year and the necessity for placing it on a better footing without further delay. I was again obliged to ask for the services of some men of the garrison to act as turnkeys, but latterly I have been successful in obtaining a far superior class of men to fill the vacancies. I am glad to be able to report that this perpetual weeding out of the staff has been attended with good results and that the conduct of those serving at the end of the year has been generally satisfactory.

11.—The Warden J. Jones retired on a pension on the 1st August. He was an energetic

and conscientious officer and served in the prison service for 21 years.

12.—During the year I have reported fully as to the improvements which should be made in the Gaol. If my recommendations be approved I trust that by the close of the present year the yard space in the male prison will be increased and that proper accommodation will be provided for female prisoners.

13.—I forward herewith the usual returns.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

H. B. LETHBRIDGE, Superintendent.
The Honourable the Acting Colonial Secretary.

WAR ITEMS.

The Japanese men-of-war *Naniwa-kun*, *Yoshino-kun*, and *Akitsu-kun* arrived at Nagasaki on the 20th ult. from Weihaiwei.

A Nagasaki telegram of the 1st inst. to the *N. C. Daily News* states that the Japanese were destroying the forts and big guns at Weihaiwei.

A Peking telegram to the *Mercury* dated 25th February, states:—At a meeting of the Grand Council held on the 24th it was agreed that all the High Officials from the first to the third rank should vote, sending their replies by telegram, whether they agreed to a prolonged war or to have peace. All have expressed their opinion that the war is unjust, but that they are anxious for peace; some are anxious for peace if Japan's terms are bearable.

The following appears in the *Hyogo News*:—“Japanese friends of the late Admiral Ting are proposing to hold a memorial service in his honour. Some members of the Diet are the chief movers in this scheme. The life of the deceased Admiral is said to have been insured with a British Company at Hongkong for £30,000. A representative of the Company is reported to have started northwards charged to fully investigate the manner of his death.” The latter part of this paragraph is, we fancy, founded on imagination only.

With regard to Mr. Howie, who is now in the hands of the Japanese, it is stated, according to the *N. C. Daily News*, that before Weihaiwei was attacked the Tsungli Yamen sent peremptory orders to Admiral Ting that neither Howie nor his companion should remain longer at Weihaiwei. The latter left, but Howie petitioned Admiral Ting to be allowed to stay, declaring that if anything should happen to him the Chinese Government would be absolved from all responsibility. This document is now in the hands of the northern authorities.

Many of the natives at Shanghai, says the *N. C. Daily News*, including quite a number of the official classes, appear to give credit to a rumour now in circulation at this port that Japan will demand from China as conditions for peace, first, an indemnity of six hundred million dollars; secondly, certain strongholds, such as Port Arthur, to be ceded in perpetuity to Japan; and, thirdly, the island of Formosa as a guarantee of China's pledges. The above are the three principal conditions; there are said to be, however, twenty other minor conditions.

A Tamsui telegram to the *N. C. Daily News* of the 26th February says:—The high authorities here evidently expect the island to be attacked by the Japanese in the near future, and have been busy making efficient preparations for receiving the enemy ever since the news of the sighting of a Japanese squadron in the Formosa Channel. Although the garrisons at Kelung and Hwei, with the large covering force in the neighbouring hills, seem to be quite sufficient to give a good account of themselves if called to do so, Governor Tang has decided to reinforce the troops there with several more regiments. An inspection was made the other day to select the men that are to be sent to Kelung.

A telegram of the 28th February to the *N. C. Daily News* states:—Li Hung-chang is expected to leave Peking for Tientsin in a day or two. The Empress-Dowager presented him with a rich fur robe, the style of which is only permissible to Princes of the Blood. The Emperor has given Li nothing on this visit to the capital, which action is being commented upon. Li also visited all the foreign Ministers and Sir Robert Hart. The visits to the British and American Ministers were the most prolonged and occurred several times. It is reported that Li's final instructions from the Emperor will be sent him

at Tientsin, the vote of the country being apparently waited for.

The following telegram from a Chinese source dated Peking, 25th February, appears in the *N. C. Daily News*:—The military authorities at Hünch'un, on the Amur river, report that it has been stated by men sent over into Russian territory that there cannot be less than 60,000 Russian troops under arms on the northern banks of the river. Moreover, that warlike and other stores have been accumulating there and attained “the dimensions of mountains.” Some anxiety has been felt by the Imperial Court at this news from the north-east provinces. The entire force of Chinese and Manchu troops in that vicinity cannot exceed 4,000 men, but there are some 15,000 military colonists who can be enrolled at any time.

We (*Kobe Chronicle*) hear that an epidemic of typhoid fever has broken out at Port Arthur and Talienwan, owing doubtless to the number of bodies which remained for so long unburied in the neighbourhood. For weeks after the fight bodies continued to be found on the neighbouring hills and buried. All the dogs of the neighbourhood have been shot by the Japanese soldiers, as it was found that they had been feeding on the unburied corpses of Chinese killed. According to the Hiroshima correspondent of the *Kobe Yushin Nippon*, six Japanese soldiers at Talienwan were recently attacked by a disease resembling Asiatic cholera, and four died within a few hours. The danger of an epidemic is evidently regarded as serious by the Government, as it is stated quarantine regulations are to be enforced in Japan upon all steamers coming from Port Arthur and Talienwan.

Respecting the proposed insurance of the Kiangnan Arsenal, Mr. J. A. Ballard writes to the *North-China Daily News*:—As the paragraph on the above subject which appears in this morning's issue of your paper does not quite correctly represent the facts of the case, I shall feel obliged by your giving publicity to the following statement of what actually occurred. Towards the end of December, at the request of the Shanghai Taotai, I telegraphed to London to enquire upon what terms insurance to the extent of £2,000,000 could be effected upon the buildings and contents of the Kiangnan Arsenal:—(a.) To cover all risks, including war risk, and (b.) to cover the fire risk only. My correspondents telegraphed me in due course definite quotations for different periods under both headings, and these were submitted to the Taotai accordingly. My proposals were laid by the Taotai before the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung at Nanking and remained for some time under the consideration of the provincial authorities there. In the meantime, however, the political situation underwent a change; and the publication of the instructions regarding the protection of the Yangtze and its approaches forwarded by the British Government to Admiral Fremantle served to allay the apprehensions of the Chinese. The Viceroy consequently telegraphed the Taotai that he considered the proposed insurance unnecessary. The statement that underwriters would not even quote a rate for the risk is thus incorrect, and there is no doubt that insurance could have been effected in London, if desired, on favourable terms.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

LONDON, 28th February.

© The *Times*' correspondent at Peking states that Li Hung-chang has been well received by the Emperor in three audiences and that he proceeds to Japan on a mission of peace.

LONDON, 1st March.

The Japanese are evacuating the advanced outlying positions at Weihaiwei and Ninghai and the bulk of the army has sailed for Talienwan.

LONDON, 4th March, 1895.

On the afternoon of Sunday (24th ultimo) thirteen thousand Chinese attacked the Japanese at Haicheng and were repulsed after severe fighting and the loss of 200 killed. The Japanese loss was 270.

Negotiations relative to the powers and credentials of the Chinese Envoys are proceeding favourably. It is proposed that the Envoys first meet at Shimomoseki if their powers to negotiate are approved of, and afterwards to transfer negotiations to Hiroshima.

The Japanese are advancing in Manchuria and forcing the Chinese to retreat northward.

THE LATE PEACE MISSION.

We are in a position to state that the hitch in the procedure of the Peace Mission to Japan is likely to give great umbrage to the Foreign Department of the United States. Col. Denby took infinite pains in personally drafting the credentials of the Commissioners; he did so in a manner which precluded all objection, even if diplomatic punctilio had been carried to its last limit. He submitted his drafts to the Tsungli Yamen, was assured that they had been accepted and strictly adhered to, and was officially and effusively thanked for his considerate efforts.

The fact that the Commissioners' credentials are now found to be informal and their powers inadequate confirms the suspicion that his Excellency's drafts were very materially altered. The high Chinese authorities seem to be as arrogantly indifferent as ever to the inexpediency of alienating the sympathy of their best friends. Their duplicity towards the Minister in Peking, to say nothing of the indignity to which they have submitted so eminent a man as ex-Secretary of State Foster by asking him to take part in a negotiation which was added from the beginning, will not only make a painful impression in America, but will also fill China's well-wishers with despair. Ending rather than mending would seem to be the only fate to the existing state of affairs in Peking.—N. C. Daily News.

THE HONGKONG BRICK AND CEMENT CO., LIMITED.

The second annual meeting of the shareholders of the Hongkong Brick and Cement Co., Limited, was held on Saturday, at noon, at the Company's office, 9, Praya Central. Mr. J. D. Humphreys, Chairman of the Company, was unable to attend, and the chair was taken by Mr. David Gillies. There were also present the Hon. C. P. Chater, Messrs. J. B. Coughtrie (Directors), W. A. Duff (Secretary), W. H. Potts, George Fenwick, W. H. Ray, A. G. Stokes, Paul Jordan, Leung Tung Po, and J. Watts (Manager).

The CHAIRMAN said—I am extremely sorry that I have been called upon to take the chair, owing to the illness of Mr. Humphreys, so that if there are any points of interest that I may omit in the few remarks I have to make to you I have to crave your indulgence and plead the very short notice I have had. The report and statement of accounts for last year's working having been in your hands for some time, with your permission we will consider them as having been read. From the statement of accounts you will observe that your Directors are again unable to recommend the payment of a dividend, although at our last annual meeting the business of the Company looked so flourishing that we fully anticipated a handsome return to shareholders on the year's working, and so far we are glad to say that the returns have been satisfactory; but unfortunately considerable damage was done to our property by the severe typhoons in the months of September and October last. The amount at debit of typhoon damage, viz., \$1,100, does not nearly represent our loss, as this covers the damage to kilns and chimneys only; whereas in addition to this we lost a large quantity of green goods in the kilns, some coal washed away, matcheds destroyed, factory roof carried away, considerable part of the wharf washed away, and owing to the injury to our kilns and chimneys the works were non-productive for about two months. However, the disastrous effects of the typhoons were made good as soon as possible, and the cost of these repairs has been debited to working account. The business of the Company is, we are glad to say, rapidly improving, and our sales during the period under review exceed those of the former year by about 40 per cent. and for the opening months of our present financial year we have to report a further marked improvement in the many large orders coming to hand, so that the works will now be fully employed on contract work for some months. Two new kilns of large capacity have just been completed and will be dried and utilized during the current month. From them we expect a very favourable result and an increase on our output of over 30 per cent, so that notwithstanding the many misfortunes and the great difficulties the Company have had to contend with we may now look to the future with great confidence, as we

can always find a ready market for our goods at remunerative rates. Before proceeding to the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be very glad to answer any questions that shareholders may wish to put.

Mr. FENWICK—Is there plenty of clay, Mr. Chairman, to keep the place going for many years to come?

The CHAIRMAN—I believe there is sufficient clay to keep the works going for twenty years—probably much longer, as the clay extends underneath the upper surface for about half a mile beyond the Company's property.

The CHAIRMAN—As there are no further questions, I beg to propose the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. FENWICK—I beg to second that.

Carried.

Mr. RAY—I beg to propose that the retiring directors, Messrs. J. D. Humphreys and J. B. Coughtrie, be re-elected.

Mr. STOKES—I second that.

Carried.

Mr. JORDAN—I beg to propose the re-election of Messrs. A. O'D. Gourdin and T. I. Rose as auditors.

Mr. STOKES seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. I thank you for your attendance.

The following is the report:—

The Directors beg to present their report and statement of accounts for the year ended 31st October, 1894.

The severe typhoons of last year, the first of which occurred on the 25th September and the last on the 5th October, inflicted a very heavy loss on the Company, which, taken in conjunction with the high price for fuel ruling during the year, the enhanced cost of labour due to the plague, and the impossibility of raising prices quickly enough to meet all these altered conditions, account for the balance shown at debit of working account.

Chimney and kilns of increased capacity have been built to replace those destroyed, the Company's business having increased to such an extent during the past year that a much greater output is required to keep pace with the orders.

DIRECTORS.

Messrs. J. D. Humphreys and J. B. Coughtrie retire by rotation and offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

Messrs. A. O'D. Gourdin and T. I. Rose have audited the accounts now presented and offer themselves for re-election.

J. D. HUMPHREYS, Chairman.

Hongkong, 25th February, 1895.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR THE 31st OCTOBER, 1894.

ASSETS.		
Property		£ 60
Kilns and chimneys	\$9,231.60	
Less typhoon damage	1,100.00	
		8,131.60
Buildings		11,111.00
Machinery and plant		18,816.78
Furniture		2,165.85
Stock, fuel, pipes, &c.		9,564.24
Cash in hand		174.88
Accounts receivable		3,129.44
Profit and loss account		3,223.04
		\$56,828.83

LIABILITIES.		
Capital—		\$ 60,000
4,000 shares at \$15		
Less amount not called up at \$2.50	10,000	
		50,000.00
Accounts payable		5,628.83
Directors' fees for 1893	\$600	
Directors' fees for 1894	600	
		1,200.00
		\$56,828.83

WORKING ACCOUNT.		
Balance at debit 30th October, 1893		\$ 2,421.65
Fuel		11,735.41
Stores used		1,305.36
Salaries and wages		10,513.23
Rent and taxes		811.00
Upkeep of works		1,257.69
Charges		1,825.53
Bad debts		8.00
Typhoon damage		1,100.00
Directors' and auditors' fees		650.00
		\$31,631.92

By account of sales	\$28,097.94
By balance suspense account	299.94
By transfer fees	11.00
By profit and loss account	3,233.04
	\$31,631.92

GEO. FENWICK AND COMPANY, LIMITED.

The annual meeting of the shareholders of George Fenwick and Co., Limited, was held on the 1st inst. at noon at the Hongkong Hotel. Mr. G. Fenwick (General Manager) presided, and there were also present Messrs. A. Rodger, W. Parlane (Consulting Committee), R. C. Wilcox, G. C. Cox, A. More, R. Adams, W. S. Bailey, and G. Winterburn.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the report and accounts having been in your hands for some days, with your permission I will take these as read. The result for the past year is hardly so good as that for 1893; this is to be accounted for by the troubles we had during several months; the loss whilst the plague lasted was considerable, and following that we were unfortunate in having heavy losses resulting from the typhoons which visited us during September and beginning of October. The price of coals also ruled high during the past year on account of the war between China and Japan, so that taking these circumstances into consideration I think the result is not so unsatisfactory as it looks. You will observe that we carry a large amount forward, and this after writing down our plant considerably. To many it would seem that we should instead of doing this pay a larger dividend, but, gentlemen, you will see on looking at the accounts, and comparing them with those of last year, that we have increased our plant, our stock, and also added a new boiler shed to our buildings; the money therefore carried forward is all absorbed in the business. To carry on our business successfully and to be able to compete with similar works in Hongkong we must endeavour to keep ahead of them in having better labour saving appliances. Having a good and useful stock also gives us a great advantage over those who require to purchase in the Hongkong market, and this has been my aim when adding to the business that has been done. Great improvements can still be made, and these must be effected gradually, as we all wish to have dividends as well as to see improvements. I am sorry, gentlemen, that it has been found necessary to give such a small dividend for 1894. There is every probability that we shall be able to give a better dividend this year as well as improve our plant. Before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be pleased to answer any question which shareholders may ask.

Mr. COX—What was the amount of typhoon damage?

The CHAIRMAN—The damage amounted to about \$1,100 due to loss of launch and damage to buildings.

Mr. WILCOX—Altogether the report is hardly so satisfactory as last year of course, but your remarks have thrown a good deal of light on the subject. Still it would be more satisfactory if we could have a larger dividend. Is it absolutely necessary to carry forward quite so much?

The CHAIRMAN—I have not the available cash. As I observed the whole of the amount is absorbed in the business. You will notice in the accounts that our plant has been increased, and there is also the cost of the extra buildings.

Mr. WILCOX—If you paid a larger dividend you would be obliged to borrow money?

The CHAIRMAN—We would require to overdraw our draft on the bank.

Mr. WILCOX—For which you would have to pay 7 per cent.?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes.

Mr. WILCOX—I hardly advocate that.

Mr. PARLANE—It is necessary to do that now, as the balance on current account is only \$700.

The CHAIRMAN—I have increased our stock, and as it stands at the present time we need not make any addition to it. It is very useful to have an increased stock, as it saves buying in the Hongkong market. This year it will not be necessary to add to the stock, as it is quite sufficient for our purpose if kept up to what it is now.

Mr. WILCOX—Next year we shall be able to divide the profits pretty well?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes; we might possibly add to our plant a little, and the buildings will be sufficient to supply our wants for some time.

Mr. WILCOX—Could you not build a godown on the premises?

The CHAIRMAN—No; we built new offices. The old office we turned into a fitting shop.

There being no further questions the CHAIR-

MAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts as presented.

Mr. BAILEY—I beg to second that.

Carried.

Mr. BAILEY—I beg to propose the re-election of Messrs. Parlane and Rodger on the Consulting Committee.

Mr. COX—I have much pleasure in seconding.

Carried.

Mr. WILCOX—I have much pleasure in proposing that Mr. Thomas Arnold be re-elected auditor.

Mr. WINTERBURN—I have much pleasure in seconding that.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That concludes the business, gentlemen. I thank you very much for your attendance. The dividend warrants will be issued to-morrow morning.

Mr. WILCOX—Shall we have to send for them?

The CHAIRMAN—No; we always post them.

Mr. BAILEY—I propose a vote of thanks to the Manager for the very satisfactory balance sheet which has been issued.

Mr. MORE—I beg to second that.

The CHAIRMAN—I thank you very much, gentlemen. I will try and do better next year if I possibly can (hear, hear).

GREEN ISLAND CEMENT CO., LIMITED.

On Thursday afternoon an extraordinary general meeting was held at the Company's offices, Praya Central. Mr. J. Kramer presided. There were also present Messrs. Suidter (Secretary), R. Shewan, G. Murray Bain, E. Goetz, and Wong Shing.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, this meeting has been called in order to confirm the special resolutions passed at the extraordinary general meeting of the Company held on the 8th inst. and I now beg to propose—"That the special resolution passed and confirmed at the extraordinary general meeting on 12th April, 1892, and 5th May, 1892, be and the same are hereby annulled;" Secondly: "That Messrs. Shewan & Co. be appointed general managers of the Company; such appointment to date from 28th February, 1895," be confirmed.

Mr. GOETZ seconded the resolution.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That is the whole of the business, gentlemen. I thank you very much for your attendance.

THE HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the twenty-sixth ordinary annual meeting to be held on the 9th inst.:

The General Managers beg to submit to shareholders the twenty-sixth annual report of the Company.

1893 account.—The result of the year's working shows a balance at credit of \$131,241.02, which sum, with the approval of the Consulting Committee, it is now proposed to deal with as follows:—

Bonus to contributing shareholders... \$ 19,241.02

Dividend of \$14 per share..... 112,000.00

\$131,241.02

BRITISH AGENCIES.

These have been closed.

MORTGAGES.

The General Managers and Consulting Committee are satisfied that the securities held by the Company form an ample guarantee for the advances made.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

The present members, Messrs. Chater, Moses, Bird, Holliday, and Lewis retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. Fallar-ton Hendersen and A. Coxon, and their re-election is recommended.

JARDINE, MATHERSON & Co.,

General Managers,

Hongkong Fire Insurance Company, Limited.

Hongkong, 27th February, 1895.

BALANCE SHEET, 31ST DECEMBER, 1894.		\$	c.
Dr.			
Capital subscribed	\$2,000,000.00		
Amount paid-up	400,000.00		
Reserve fund	1,000,000.00		
Uncollected dividends	3,621.90		
Accounts payable	223,738.61		
Working account, 1893—			
Balance from last account	\$238,450.47		
Add—Sundry premia, salvages, &c., since collected	152,151.03		
	\$390,601.50		
Less—Losses and other payments	\$253,110.48		
Remuneration to consulting committee and auditors	6,250.00		
	259,360.48		

Net profit for 1893	131,241.02
Working account, 1894—	
Amount brought forward from below	167,223.19

\$1,925,824.72

Cr.		\$	c.
ASSETS.			
Cash, on current account with Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	29,674.65		
Cash in hands of General Managers	879.73		
Fixed deposit—			
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	160,000.00		
Mortgages and loans—			
In Hongkong	\$733,500.00		
In Foochow	59,000.00		
In Amoy	20,000.00		
In Shanghai	722,182.55		
	1,531,682.55		
Properties foreclosed—			
Hongkong inland lot 37 and R.P. of 265	55,911.48		
Investments—			
Chinese Imperial Government loan, 1886	\$33,415.73		
200 shares in the Hongkong Land Investment Company, Limited	10,400.00		
Debentures—Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Limited	30,000.00		
5 shares in the China Fire Insurance Company, Limited	157.00		
	73,972.73		
Steam fire engines	2,000.00		
Accounts receivable	63,670.58		
	\$1,925,824.72		

WORKING ACCOUNT, 1894.		\$	c.
To net premia received, less returns and re-insurances	315,824.67		
To interest account	114,791.22		
To transfer fees	114.00		
	\$430,732.89		
By losses and claims paid	163,352.60		
By charges—			
Head office and Eastern Agencies	21,700.67		
London branch	46,362.39		
	71,063.06		
By commissions	29,094.01		
By balance as above	167,223.19		
	\$430,732.89		

THE PUNJOM MINING CO., LIMITED

The following is the Manager's report for January, 1895:—

August Shaft, 200ft. Level.—The No. 1 crosscut is still being driven east to connect with the north and south reef, and I am in hopes of seeing this completed in a few weeks. The ground is very hard and bad for blasting, consequently the progress is slow. Distance driven 8' 6".

No. 2 crosscut is without change to notice. Distance driven 19'. Total length from No. 1 north crosscut 168'.

The south drive on the course of the north and south reef has been extended 20' 6", making it 93' 6" from the No. 2 east crosscut. The reef is strong and well defined, but up till now is too poor for milling. I am, however, looking for an improvement here daily.

Intermediate (150') Level.—The No. 1 crosscut has been restarted to go out to a leader known to exist about 30 ft. north of Phillips' leader. Distance driven 12' 6". Total length from shaft 147' 6".

The south drive on the course of the east and west reef has been extended 37'. Very fair quality ore has been obtained at this point and I am hoping for a continuance of this. Phillips' leader is being stoped on, but so far the ore is only of low grade. I am also hoping for an early improvement here.

No. 1 South 110' Level.—This point is being pushed on with all possible speed and good progress made. Distance driven 53'. Total length from shaft 238' 6". The face is now in better looking country rock and should be close to the course of the reef. A drive off the No. 1 north has just been commenced at a point opposite the new winding shaft, to go out to the Mill Gully reef at this level. Distance driven 15'.

Mill Gully Tunnel.—This point has received great attention, and notwithstanding the fact that the old workers had been there before us, some very fair ore was obtained; we are simply taking out the blocks of ore left by them. The drive south on the course of the reef has been extended 25 feet, the greater part of the distance through a large block of ore left just above water level. Stopping over the back of this south level is being carried on, and fair quality ore got for the mill. The north drive has been extended 23' and is now in nice looking slate country; but up to this we have not found the continuation of the reef in this direction.

A crosscut west of this north drive has been driven 40', but so far there are no signs of the reef. I shall continue the north drive and run out crosscuts so as to thoroughly test this point. A small shaft to ventilate the ground about 160 ft. north of the Mill Gully tunnel has been sunk to a depth of 55', and a small crosscut is now being driven off it to see if the continuation of the reef can be traced nearer the surface.

The No. 1 North Kladi tunnel has been extended a further distance of 47', making it 95' from its mouth. This tunnel should strike the course of the Mill Gully reef within the coming month.

Upper Stopes.—These are in good order and continue to give the usual quantity of fair grade ore for the mill.

Various small drivages, amounting in all to 181 ft., have been made, but as they are of minor importance can hardly be more than mentioned in this report.

Milling.—This was carried on during 27 days, or, allowing for lost time consequent on repairs to No. 1 Box, 24½ days with full battery; crushing 614 tons of ore from the mine for 302 oz. 8 dwts. of gold, and 496 tons of old headings for 50 oz. of gold.

Cyanide Works.—The carpenters are now busy with the roofing and I am hoping to see good progress made during the coming month. I may tell you the Chinese New Year holidays have delayed work in many ways.

Labour.—This continues fairly plentiful. General.—The work coming under this head has had the usual attention.

Health.—This is fairly good.

RAUB.

The mining manager's report for the four weeks ending 9th February, 1895, runs as follows:—

Raub Hole No. 1 Level.—The only work going on in this level is working the small cross leaders, which show fair gold, but are small. In the intermediate drive between the No. 1 north and south winzes, we are getting some very good ore in the stopes, which are about 12" to 18" wide. There is still a good block of ground to take out here.

No. 2 Level.—In the main drive going south good progress is being made, the ground being favourable for driving. Several more small cross leaders have been cut, showing fair gold. There appears to be a good extent of gold-bearing country at this level. The main lode formation still remains small and shows no gold.

No. 2 Shaft.—The main drive going south is now in 120 feet from crosscut, the lode in the face being fully 3 feet wide, showing gold. The north drive is now in 100 feet from the crosscut, with a lode about 10 inches wide in the face of solid stone, in which gold can be seen when breaking. This drive is very hard and difficult to drive. In the stopes over the back of the south drive good gold is being got in all of them. The lode in this end still maintains its permanent appearance and richness. I have every reason to expect a large return of gold from these workings during the present year.

Bukit Komar.—The only work being carried on here is stoping over the back of the main level at 140 feet and in the leader formation in the shaft. There is no change to report in the prospects of either place; about half of the last

crushing came from these stopes. Since the fine weather has set in, the water in the mine has eased off a great deal, which makes the workings better.

Western Lode.—There is no change in the prospects of these workings. Stopping is being carried on both north and south from the north winze; the lode if anything is a little smaller on the south stopes. Gold can be seen in breaking the ore in all the stopes and a fair amount of crushing stuff has been sent to the battery from here.

Battery.—A rough clean-up of the battery took place to-day; 850 tons yielded 1,200 ounces amalgam. About half of the ore crushed came from Bukit Koman, three-tenths from Raub Hole, and two-tenths from the western lode. One week was lost owing to the Chinese New Year holidays.

Railway.—The survey of this is completed from the western lode shaft as far as Bukit Malacca, with all the necessary plans, sections, and estimates to proceed with the work. The total length with sidings is 3 miles and 12 chains. The total cost, including rolling stock, I estimate at \$32,792. The line is longer than I originally intended to carry it in the first instance; but by carrying it to Bukit Malacca it will enable me to at once open up several mines equally as good as Bukit Koman, and raise sufficient ore to keep double our present number of stamps employed.

The *Straits Times* says:—It has been decided to build on the property of the Raub Australian Mining Company three and a half miles of railway, of 2 feet 6 inches gauge, to connect all the mines with the battery. The order for the rails is already telegraphed home. A locomotive has been bought locally from the liquidators of the Tanjong Pagar Land Company; and every effort will be made to push on the work. The gradient of the line will be 1 in 50. The cost will be about \$32,000. That cost will be paid, in a manner, out of the working of the mine. That is to say, having regard to the different interests of the fully paid and partially paid shares, it is probable that the cost of the railway, being a capital charge, will be defrayed by a call, but that the call will be made concurrently with the declaration of a dividend, so that the call can be off-set against the dividend. A call of sixpence per share on 140,000 partly paid shares yields £3,500, or, say, \$35,000. As the next dividend will probably be sixpence, that dividend and that call may conveniently balance each other.

THE TAKU TUG AND LIGHTER CO., LIMITED.

The following is the sixth annual report for presentation to the annual meeting which was to be held on the 23rd ult.:

The accounts for 1894 duly audited, which the directors will submit to the general meeting, are presented herewith.

From these accounts it will be seen that the net result of the Company's working shows a credit balance of \$192,794.88. This has enabled the directors to pay to the shareholders a dividend of 5 per cent. in July last, absorbing \$30,714.29, and after providing for general expenses, &c., and carrying \$44,543.87 to depreciation account, there is a balance of \$128,262.41.

This available balance the directors recommend should be disposed of in the following manner:—

	Tls.	\$ c.
By payment of the directors and auditor's fees	1,700.00	2,123.57
By paying a dividend of 10 per cent.	43,000.00	61,428.57
By carrying to reserve fund	14,318.02	20,454.31
By equalization of dividends	14,000.00	20,000.00
By carrying forward to 1895	16,765.67	23,950.96
	Tls. 89,783.69	\$128,262.41

The payment of this dividend together with the interim dividend paid in July last will give the shareholders a return of 15 per cent.

Should the appropriations proposed by the directors be carried, the Company's reserves will stand as follows:—Reserve fund, Tals 50,000; depreciation account, Tals 96,948.72; equalization of dividends, Tals 14,000; balance carried forward, Tals 16,765.67; making in all Tals 177,714.39.

In accordance with clause 8 of the articles of Association the directors retire; but being eligible offer themselves for re-election.

The auditor, Mr. J. M. Dickinson, again offers his services for the year.

By order,
W. H. FORBES, Secretary.

A Masonic Ball was given at Yokohama on the 23rd ult.

THE KOBE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON FOREIGN INTERESTS IN JAPAN.

We extract the following passages from the annual report of the Committee of the Kobe Chamber of Commerce:—

DISCRIMINATION IN FAVOUR OF JAPANESE MERCHANTS IN THE COLLECTION OF DUTIES.

Information was brought before the late Committee in 1893 that the Custom Houses at the open ports have for some years past been allowing Japanese merchants to pay specific duties at an exchange of Boos 317.46 per \$100, whereas foreigners were charged at the Treaty rate of Boos 311, thus giving an advantage to the former of rather more than 2 per cent. Some difficulty was experienced in obtaining actual proof of the alleged practice, but this was at length overcome, and on the 15th of May of this year a memorial was addressed to the Foreign Consuls upon the subject, a copy of which, as well as of the replies elicited, is appended. It will be observed that the evil has now been remedied, and that from the 15th October duties have been collected, from Japanese and foreigners alike, at 21½ sen per boo, or Boos 317.46 per \$100. Although the representations of the Chamber have been successful in removing this disability from foreign trade, the Committee is obliged to confess that the tone of the communication from the Government is somewhat unsatisfactory. Whilst admitting that a distinct breach of the Treaties has been permitted for nine years, to the great advantage of its own subjects, there is no word of excuse for nor explanation of such an arbitrary proceeding, and above all no indication of restitution. We are left to the irresistible conclusion that had not a mere accident revealed the existence of the practice it would have been indefinitely prolonged, and to the uncomfortable doubt that other, perhaps still more serious, disabilities may still be permitted, of which we have no knowledge. Such a condition of things does not augur well for the future of foreign trade, when its present limited safeguards shall have ceased to exist.

WAR WITH CHINA.

War was declared by Japan against China on the 2nd of August and the invasion, first of Korea and subsequently of the north-eastern districts of China, has since been successfully accomplished by this country without any serious opposition on the part of its antagonist. As regards the influence of the hostilities upon foreign trade, which is the only point of the question with which a commercial body has to deal, there is no doubt that business in the ordinary staple articles of import has been seriously affected, both on account of the unsettled state of native commerce and by reason also of the usual means of communication with the interior having been interrupted by the movement of troops. On the other hand, however, a considerable impetus has been given to the demand for some special goods, as well as to the charter and sale of foreign vessels, and the export trade appears to have been carried on without any restriction. At the same time the Government expenditure, which so far has been provided without any appeal to foreign capitalists, must be very considerable, and unless a large indemnity be obtained from China at the termination of the war the withdrawal of so much capital cannot fail eventually to restrict industrial enterprises, and for a time at least to impair the purchasing powers of the country.

REVISION OF THE TREATIES.

A report of this nature can scarcely be considered complete without some reference to a political event which is likely to have so important an effect upon the future of foreign commerce as the projected revision of the Treaties. Assuming that the course which the British Government, despite the remonstrances of its subjects, has seen fit to adopt will be followed by that of other countries, all foreign residents will be subject to Japanese law within the course of the next five years. It does not come within the province of this Chamber to discuss the wisdom of a measure which abandons the lives and property of Europeans unreservedly to Oriental rule, but there can be little difference of opinion as to the consequences of such an experiment in its relation solely to commercial matters. When it is borne in mind that questions relating to in-

surance, shipping, banking, and the other numerous and complex surroundings of foreign trade, will necessarily have to be dealt with by the judicature of a country which, notwithstanding its extraordinary progress in civilization, has only within a very few years become cognizant of the existence of such institutions, and which even now possesses practically no laws applicable to their regulation, it is only natural that the impending change should be regarded by the majority of foreign merchants with feelings of distrust and apprehension.

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

SHORT RANGE CUP AND SPOONS.

There was a large attendance of members on Saturday, but a strong gusty wind down the range prevented heavy scoring. The Cup was won by Corp. Lynch, R.E., and the Spoons by Sapper Lawson, Petty Officer Bishop, Major Wrottesley, Sapper Thompson, and Lieut. Hoey, the last named being for the best nett score. The following are the best scores:—

Name.	500 yards.	600 yards.	Total.	H'cap points.	Gd. total.
Corp. Lynch, R.E.	31	25	56	5	61
Sapper Lawson, R.E.	26	29	55	4	59
Petty Officer Bishop	30	25	55	3	58
Mjr. Wrottesley, R.E.	28	26	54	4	58
Sap. Thompson, R.E.	27	24	51	6	57
Mr. W. M. Deas	23	19	42	10	52
Lieut. Hoey, R.B.	26	29	55	nil	55
Capt. Palmer, O.S.D.	22	27	49	4	53
Major Moore, A.P.D.	28	17	45	8	53
Mr. W. Stewart	26	19	45	6	51
Mr. W. McDonald	21	23	44	8	51

CRICKET.

THE CLUB v. THE NAVY.

This, the return match between the Club and the Navy, was decided upon the Cricket Ground on Saturday last and after a game interesting in itself and rendered additionally interesting by the fact that several of the players were new to the colony, so far as cricket is concerned, resulted in a victory for the Club by a majority of 63 runs. At one time it appeared as if the issue might be otherwise, or at any rate the margin in the club's favour would be much narrower, the telegraph board showing 3 naval wickets down for 90 runs, with two batsmen apparently well set. At this period, however, Darby imagined a mischievous device, and assuming that air of devilish cunning for which he is now famous, sent down a tiger to Garde, who jumped out a bit, missed it, and was bowled. From this stage of the game the resistance of the batting side was of a rather feeble description, Smyth, who was in a very long time for 14 runs, being the only batsman who played with any confidence; and the whole side was eventually disposed of for 122 runs. It is rather curious to note that out of the 307 runs put together in the two innings, 197 were compiled by four batsmen, leaving 110 runs for the remaining sixteen wickets, or a trifle under 7 runs a piece. Garde played an excellent innings for the Navy, hitting with a little more freedom than is usual with him, and giving, so far as we saw, no chance. Maitland, too, was quite in his old form for the Club, and with the assistance of a little-bit of the family "joss" knocked up the substantial contribution of 85 not out—a score which was invaluable to his side. Upon the whole the batting may be looked upon as a little disappointing, as rather more than five hours' cricket only produced a trifle over 350 runs—about seventy runs an hour—which is a very poor record upon a fast and perfectly true wicket and upon the Hongkong ground with its narrow boundaries. Shelford and Blount, each of whom had a good analysis, may take the credit for this so far as the Navy goes; whilst Watson, Leach, and Darby were chiefly responsible on the side of the Club. Darby bowled 11 maidens out of 15 overs and took 3 wickets for 6 runs—a very noticeable performance.

This is the second victory of the Club over the Navy this season, but it is only fair to recognize that in the previous encounter the Navy was not very strongly represented, whilst on the present occasion some of the players who should have proved most dangerous are much out of practice after a long sojourn up north, and in fact hardly thawed. By the courtesy of Captain McQuhae and the officers of H.M.S. *Centurion* the band of

the flagship played on the ground during the afternoon.

HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB.

First Innings.		Second Innings.	
J. A. Lowson, st. Garde, b. Shelford	7	b. Blount	5
T. Sercombe Smith, b. Shelford	11	not out	21
A. J. Leach, b. Shelford	0		
S. L. Darby, b. Elliott	24	b. Blount	4
F. Matland, not out	8		
C. M. Firth, b. Blount	35	b. Shelford	28
E. Ezekiel, b. Blount	0		
R. F. Lammert, lbw, b. Blount	4		
A. S. Anton, c. Noble, b. Blount	7		
P. G. Davies, b. Shelford	2		
J. G. Watson, b. Blount	1		
Extras	7		

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Overs.	Mds.	Runs.	Wides.	N.B.	Wkts.
First Innings.					
Shelford	25	7	55	—	1
Elliott	16	3	36	—	1
Paulett	4	—	24	—	—
Arbuthnot	6	2	19	—	—
Blount	10.3	1	43	—	5
Second Innings.					
Shelford	6.4	1	20	—	1
Blount	4	1	20	—	2
Arbuthnot	3	—	16	—	—

NAVY.

R. B. Garde, b. Darby	52
Lt. W. H. Thring, c. Darby, b. Watson	1
Lt. F. A. Paulett, b. Watson	6
Lt. R. K. Arbuthnot, b. Firth	12
Lt. T. C. Smyth, b. Darby	11
Lt. E. T. Leatham, b. Leach	1
Lt. T. L. Shelford, b. Leach	0
H. M. C. Elliott, b. Darby	7
G. R. Blount, b. Watson	8
F. B. Noble, not out	2
J. M. Stee, b. Watson	1
Extras	18

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Overs.	Mds.	Runs.	Wides.	N.B.	Wkts.
First Innings.					
Lowson	9	2	17	—	—
Watson	16	4	38	—	4
Firth	8	3	24	—	1
Darby	15	11	6	—	3
Leach	8	2	19	—	2

FOOTBALL.

on Thursday afternoon the Hongkong Football Club met the Royal Engineers at the Happy Valley. The Club losing the toss had to play for a few minutes with the sun in their eyes; but with the wind at their back they immediately began to press and several corners had to be conceded. From one of these Kew made a difficult shot which was neatly tipped over the bar by the soldiers' custodian. From the corner kick nothing resulted. The ball then travelled to the other end, but its stay there was but brief. Thresher and Ezekiel, by an excellent combination, clearing whenever their citadel was threatened. At half time nothing had been scored, and both sides being anxious to draw first blood, the game became much faster. Molesworth, Kelsall, and the forwards now made frequent incursions into their opponents' territory and two corners fell to them. From one of these attacks Gorton sent in a grounder, which placed a goal to the Military's favour. The Club at once made a rush and within three minutes their long and patient play was successful in making matters even, James notching by a good head shot. Resuming, each side put forth all its strength and some capital play was witnessed. The Engineers' custodian gave a capital display in goal and on several occasions saved his side from disaster. MacKay played a good dribbling game, and by a good run got well down, then by passing right over, the ball fell to Shelford, who sent it through, thus obtaining another point. The Military, right to the finish, tried to equalize, but when the whistle blew after over an hour's play the Club were victorious by two goals to one.

The inter-Club match of the Hongkong Football Club on Monday resulted in a victory for Mr. G. W. Millward's team by one goal to nil. The winning point was secured by Sir R. K. Arbuthnot after a good run up the field. The losers made strenuous and desperate efforts towards the finish in order to equalize, but although at times they seemed certain to score, they were unable to land the ball in the desired quarter.

From the *Comercio* we learn that the Compañia Marítima are about to commence a service between Manila and Japan, the steamer *Ntra. Sra. de Loreto* being employed on the line.

The Holt steamer *Patroclus*, we learn from the *Straits Times*, has been sold to the Japanese Government, and was to leave Singapore on the 20th February for Yokohama. This is the ninth Blue Funnel boat purchased by the Japanese.

HONGKONG.

Several matters of interest to the colony have transpired during the week. The annual report on Victoria Gaol by Superintendent Lethbridge has been published. The total number of admissions during the year was 3,913, of which number 753 had been previously convicted. The number of old offenders admitted during the last two years was nearly 49 per cent. less than that of 1893. The report suggested the placing of the staff on a better footing. On Thursday the Sanitary Board passed the report on the question of the advisability or otherwise of permitting the adoption of water closets and their connection with the public sewers of Victoria. The report was adverse to the adoption of water closets. In the great Howqua property case, in which a number of banks were the plaintiffs, the question of costs was considered in the Supreme Court, and the plaintiffs were awarded their costs by His Honour Mr. E. J. Ackroyd. The costs of the added defendants were refused. On Friday Mr. Ackroyd gave judgment for the plaintiffs in the Prouchandy launch suit. On the same morning the men of the Hongkong Police Force paraded at the Central Station and received the public thanks of His Excellency the Governor for the services they rendered during the plague epidemic, and also a silver shield from the community in recognition of their services. The Taipingshan Resumption Arbitration Board concluded its sittings on Friday, and His Honour Mr. E. J. Ackroyd, Acting Chief Justice, surveyed the work of the Board, and returned thanks to all who had been connected with its sittings. Judgment in the appeal case of Lee King & Co. v. Carlowitz & Co. was to have been delivered in the Supreme Court on Monday, but His Honour Mr. E. J. Ackroyd, Acting Chief Justice, regretted his inability to give judgment as he had not had time to reconsider all the points, and he further remarked that he did not like sitting in appeal on his own judgment. He added that a true and real appeal would be before two judges who knew nothing of the case. Mr. Robinson, who appeared for the defendants, spoke strongly about his Lordship's decision and said it would be a great hardship for the parties to have to bear the expense of another trial. On Monday Mr. E. J. Ackroyd, who leaves the colony to-day on his retirement from the service, was presented with a pearl shell card receiver by the officers of the Court. At a special meeting of the Sanitary Board held on Monday afternoon the by-laws made under Section 13 of Ordinance 15 of 1894 were considered and passed.

At the Alice Memorial Hospital last month there were 43 in-patients treated and the number of out-patient visits was 925. At the Nethersole Hospital the numbers were 20 and 49 respectively.

At 2.30 on the morning of the 3rd inst. a Chinaman died suddenly in Queen's Road. He had been ailing for some time past, and he had just been to see a doctor, when he sat down in the gutter and expired almost immediately.

Mr. Duncan H. Mackintosh, of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, who was married the other day to Miss Louisa Mary Kekewich, daughter of Mr. Justice Kekewich, is coming out from home to succeed Mr. McC. Browne as agent at Bangkok.

Mr. David Wood, the accountant of the Public Works department, being about to go on leave of absence, the clerical staff of the department on Thursday afternoon presented him with a pretty souvenir. Mr. Wood leaves for home on the 4th inst.

About two o'clock on Friday afternoon a Chinaman was found at the rear of the military butts suffering from a bullet wound in his back between the shoulders. He was sent by the police to the Government Civil Hospital, where he was detained. It is supposed that a stray bullet from a military rifle struck him.

On Saturday Mr. H. J. Holmes, solicitor, appeared at the Police Court in answer to a summons charging him with having an unmuzzled ferocious dog in his possession. The animal bit a ship's carpenter in the leg and Commander Hastings said the dog had lost his character. Mr. Holmes promised to have the dog muzzled in future.

Sir Edward O'Malley's appointment to Demerara at present relieves this colony from any contribution to the pension he was till now drawing. This colony contributed \$720.

The M.M. steamer *Ernest Simons* made a fine run down from Woosung. She left at 2 p.m. on Saturday and arrived at 3 p.m. on Monday, the voyage therefore occupying forty-nine hours only.

The appointment of Mr. A. M. Thomson to be Acting Colonial Treasurer and Collector of Stamp Revenue during the absence of the Hon. N. G. Mitchell-Innes is gazetted. Mr. J. G. T. Buckle has been appointed Acting Assistant Colonial Secretary.

The following returns of the average amount of Bank notes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong during the month ended 28th February, 1895, as certified by the Managers of the respective Banks, are published:—

Banks.	Average Amount.	Specie in Reserve.
Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China	1,463,101	800,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	5,435,969	2,500,000
	\$6,899,070	\$3,300,000

On Saturday Chief Inspector Mathieson was the recipient of three very handsome presents from the Chinese sergeant interpreters at the Central Station. Mr. Mathieson is going away on leave, and as a mark of respect the interpreters gave him an exceedingly beautiful silk scroll on which was inscribed "To John Mathieson, Esq., Chief Inspector of the Hongkong Police Force. Will ever be grateful. 4th March, 1895. Presented by three sergeant interpreters belonging to the Force." Mr. Mathieson also received a sandalwood junk and a sandalwood pagoda, both very fine specimens of carving.

On Monday afternoon a large number of residents accepted an invitation which had been issued by the North German Lloyd Company to inspect the *Prinz Heinrich* at the Kowloon Wharf. It can safely be said that the guests highly appreciated the kindness of the Company, for the *Prinz Heinrich* is undoubtedly one of the finest boats that we have seen, and the exceedingly handsome, if not gorgeous, internal arrangements of the steamer could not fail to call forth many remarks of admiration. During the afternoon the guests were entertained by the Captain and Officers, and the band of the boat played a few lively airs.

On Monday afternoon an extraordinary general meeting of the members of the Hongkong Cricket Club was held in the pavilion for the purpose of considering a proposal for the acquisition by the Cricket Club of the Racquet Club's courts and premises. Mr. A. J. Leach presided and proposed the adoption of the scheme. Mr. Shewan seconded the resolution. Mr. T. Sercombe Smith spoke against the amalgamation and moved an amendment that it be not adopted. The amendment was seconded by Mr. A. M. Thompson, but was rejected by a large majority, and the amalgamation scheme was passed.

On Thursday afternoon Mr. Lammert sold by auction on the space opposite the City Hall a number of racing ponies. The following were the prices given.—Swift \$35, Throstle \$105; Volume \$55, Vinegar \$15; Victim \$30, Bonus \$95; Silver Dart \$170; Discount \$50; Fidget \$10; Crescent \$60; Tankred \$55; Silver Cloud \$90; Silver King \$62; Mystic \$140; Iota \$45; Diplomat \$35; Premier \$125; Sweetbrier \$130; Gundadeen \$75; Diogenes \$65; Fra Diavolo \$70; Gibraltar \$180; Suar \$75; Clinker \$55; Nobbler \$30; Donald Dhu \$125; Grey Friar \$30; Dandy \$150; Blackbird \$30. Sinner, The Rake, Glengairn, and Havoc were withdrawn.

A writer of "Golf Notes" in the *Straits Times* says:—Some time ago the Secretary wrote to Hongkong asking whether it would be possible to arrange a match between four representatives of the two Clubs. He has received a reply warmly approving of such a trial of golfing strength, and I believe it is not unlikely that our men will visit the northern port in November. If they do I entertain little doubt of their victory. The Hongkong links are on the race course, as they are here, but there are no bunkers to speak of, and the round ought to be done by our four best players in an average of 80 or 82. I think, however, that Lowson can give even Stiven a point or two, but he is the only scratch player in Hongkong.

The Russian man-of-war *Vsadnik* and the torpedo cruiser *Gaydameak* arrived here on Saturday from Saigon.

There were 1,955 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 155 were Europeans. H.M.S. *Alacrity*, with Admiral Fremantle on board, arrived at Shanghai on the 25th February from Chefoo and Weihaiwei.

The new number of the *Book Plate*, the Journal of the "Odd Volumes," contains the first part of a paper by Sir William Robinson on self cultivation.

The Volunteer Ball, which was postponed from Friday last on account of the death of the Hon. Capt. F. M. St. Aubyn, of the Rifle Brigade, is now fixed for the 15th inst.

MISCELLANEOUS.

An expert in the manufacture of straw braid is expected at Kobo from Switzerland. The Agriculture and Commerce Department has instructed the Chamber of Commerce to exhibit samples to the visitor.

The Rev. S. L. Gulick, of Osaka, is, the *Hyogo News* says, gathering statistics of the number, age, wage, hours, &c., of the labourers at every factory in the city in the hope of finding means to ameliorate the condition of the class and to educate and help the sons and daughters of the poor.

The P. & O. steamer *Ceylon*, Captain Baker, which arrived at Singapore on the 21st February from Hongkong, is to convey the 26th Company, Southern Division, R.A. to Malta to replace the 25th Company, which arrived at Singapore on the 13th February in the P. & O. steamer *Malacca*.

The residue of the stock, fixtures, and effects of the defunct Deakin Brothers (Limited) Company was submitted to the auctioneer's hammer at Yokohama the other day (says the *Japan Herald*). In view of the fact that for the goodwill of the late interesting concern \$0,000 was paid to the vendor, it certainly was a startling contrast to find that now, with a couple of signboards thrown in, worth some \$5, if only for firewood, the entire lot only fetched \$2.75, so that the goodwill itself fetched something less than nothing at all.

While the carpenter of the *St. David*, now at Shanghai, was recently examining the ship's copper after she had discharged her cargo he came across a peculiar object embedded in the ship's side. He called the attention of the captain to this and an examination was made. To effect this the object had to be cut out of the wood and it was then found to be part of a sword fitter's sword, which had not only gone clean through three to four inches of pitch pine planking, but had also penetrated one of the white oak timbers some inches, where it had come in contact with a bolt, the length of the sword being some eleven to twelve inches. The sword is now in the hands of the captain of the ship.

An incident which might almost belong to the realm of anecdote is reported from the police courts, says the *Bangkok Times*. On Monday morning constable No. 211 (Nai Chuen), in conformity with the local regulation for walking-sticks, arrested Phya Thamassaranate, Chief Judge of the Appeal Court, only discovering his identity on arrival at the police station. Here, however, Phya Anan, the Chief Superintendent of Police, confiscated the offending but necessary staff of the learned judge, pending the payment of the usual four lical fine. In this instance, at least, King Chulalongkorn may, apart from his appreciation of the walking-stick ordinance, but after the manner of Henry IV., thank Providence for having given him both a police superintendent who knows how to administer the laws and a judge who respects their authority.

Yokohama, we learn from the *Japan Mail*, was visited by a furious gale, accompanied by heavy downpours of rain, in the early hours of Sunday morning, 24th February. The wind sprang up about 3 o'clock and gradually increased until it reached its height about 5 o'clock, blowing in heavy gusts from the W.S.W. On the Bluff much damage was done to gardens and trees, while many fences were blown down. Near Kanagawa a lot of electric-light and telephone wires were set adrift through the fury of the wind. The ruins of the Oriental Hotel in Yokohama soon became a dangerous spot to pass, owing to the metal guttering and half-hung shutters becoming loosened, but fortunately no accident resulted. A good deal of plaster was washed off

the fronts of houses in the Settlement. At Yoshiokacho, Sanchome, a house collapsed. Three lighters of Messrs. Helm Bros. were wrecked and their freight lost.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1894-95 lbs.	1893-94 lbs.
Canton and Macao	7,597,185	8,178,734
Amoy	772,692	720,993
Foochow	13,777,348	21,329,281
Shanghai and Hankow	21,591,498	25,514,030
	43,738,723	55,743,038

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1894-95 lbs.	1893-94 lbs.
Canton	3,532,680	1,349,192
Amoy	18,651,820	19,652,332
Foochow	8,140,519	5,883,106
Shanghai	25,783,527	24,176,826
	56,108,546	51,061,456

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1894-95 lbs.	1893-94 lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai	22,555,223	21,619,462

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1894-95 lbs.	1893-94 lbs.
Yokohama	28,621,171	28,623,687
Kobe	16,684,672	16,880,822
	45,305,843	45,504,509

SILK.

SHANGHAI, 28th February.—(From Messrs. Cromie and Burkill's circular).—London telegrams dated 26th current report the market "dull," with no alteration in quotations. Raw Silk.—Business during the week has been more or less nominal, home advices being of an adverse character. Holders continue firm at about last quotations. Tsatlees.—Only a few bales have changed hands. Orders have been coming forward slowly and on a considerably lower basis of prices than holders appear willing to accept. Taysams.—No transactions to report. Yellow Silks.—Small business at current rates. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, from the 21st to 27th inst. are 287 bales of White, 18 bales of Yellow, and 2 bales of Wild Silk. Re-reels and Filatures.—A few bales of ordinary Cock and Centipede No. 2 changed hands at Tls. 447½. Wild Silks.—A parcel of Tussah Raws Market No. 1 was sold at Tls. 157½, and Filatures 4 Cocoons were settled at Tls. 237½. Waste Silk.—Nothing doing. Pongees.—No transactions reported.

Purchases include:—Tsatlees.—Almond Flower Sutemay at Tls. 330. Hangchow Tsatlees.—Lancher at Tls. 335, Lanhock at Tls. 315, Blue Horse No. 1 at Tls. 312½, Pagoda Neor at Tls. 291½. Taysam.—Green Kahing Gr. Almond Flower 1 at Tls. 311½. Yellow Silk.—Shantung Skeins Blue Stock Chop at Tls. 225, Meeyang at Tls. 220, Wongchow at Tls. 185. Filature.—Cock and Centipede No. 2 at Tls. 447½. Wild Silk.—Tussah Filature 4 Cocoons at Tls. 237½, tussah Raw Market 1 Tls. 157½.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1894-95 bales.	1893-94 bales.
Canton	12,888	14,501
Shanghai	45,394	45,517
Yokohama	19,037	16,372
Total to date	77,319	76,390

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1894-95 bales.	1893-94 bales.
Canton	6,568	2,734
Shanghai	7,357	2,233
Yokohama	22,738	11,957
	36,663	16,924

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 5th March.—Prices have again advanced a little, although the volume of business has not been very large. Quotations for Formosa

are \$50.50 to \$50.75. During the past ten day sales have been 250 piculs. Quotations for Japanese camphor are \$55.00 to \$55.50. Sales 100 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 5th March.—An active demand having been experienced during the past week, prices have recovered a little. Following are the quotations:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White...	\$7.62 to 7.65 per picul.
do. " 2, White...	7.02 to 7.05 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown...	4.90 to 4.93 "
do. " 2, Brown...	4.68 to 4.71 "
Swatow, No. 1, White...	7.53 to 7.55 "
do. " 2, White...	6.87 to 6.90 "
do. " 1, Brown...	4.61 to 4.65 "
Swatow, No. 2, Brown...	4.41 to 4.45 "
Foochow Sugar Candy	10.80 to 11.00 "
Shekloong	9.49 to 9.52 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The steamer *Pathan*, Hongkong to New York, 1st February, took:—25 bales Waste Silk, 58 cases Blackwoodware, 33 cases Fans, 76 cases Preserves, 818 rolls Matting, 14 cases Straw Hats, and 3 cases Merchandise.

The steamer *Teucer*, Hongkong to London, 2nd February, took:—17 cases Pearl Shells, 500 cases Preserves, 100 bales Waste Silk, 34 cases Gum Elemi, 16 bags Gum Copal, and 2 cases Metal Ware; for Liverpool:—7 cases Cigars.

The German steamer *Erato*, Hongkong to Havre, 15th February, took:—199 cases Camphor, 50 boxes Staraniseed, 1,419 rolls Matting, and 2 cases Sundries; for Havre option Hamburg:—200 cases Camphor, and 25 cases Cassia Oil; for Havre option Hamburg option London:—915 cases Camphor, 20 boxes Bristles, 20 cases Ginger, and 10 boxes Ginger; for Hamburg:—75 cases Gallnuts, 200 boxes Staraniseed, 50 cases Bristles, 50 cases Cassia Buds, 2 cases Ginger, 3 cases Human Hair, 36 cases Chinaware, 4 packages Tea, 45 cases Aniseed Oil, 10 cases Cassia Oil, 203 bales Canes, 102 bales Feathers, 58 packages Merchandise, and 8 cases Sundries; for Hamburg option London:—100 boxes Camphor; for London via Hamburg:—200 boxes Camphor.

The British steamer *Euplectola*, Hongkong to Marseilles, 27th February, took:—400 bales Broken Cassia, 150 cases Cassia Ligna, 50 boxes Staraniseed, and 20 boxes Essential Oil; for Genoa:—626 bags Sesamum Seeds; for Trieste:—1,500 cases Cassia Ligna, 37 cases Chicken Shells, and 18 cases Palm Leaf Fans.

The P. & O. steamer *Kaisar-i-Hind*, Hongkong to London, 28th February, took:—195 bales Waste Silk, 12 cases Silks, 9 cases Cigars, 35 cases Canes, 15 cases Bristles, and 7 packages Sundries; for France:—356 bales Raw Silk, 68 bales Pierced Cocoons, 3 bales Human Hair, 100 boxes Tea, and 1 box Silks.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 5th March.—Bengal.—There has been a further drop in rates owing to the continued absence of demand and the low average realised at the last Government Sale. New Patna is quoted at the close at \$775. Old Patna at \$740, New Benares at \$740, and Old Benares at \$720, these figures being all nominal.

Malwa.—No transaction of any note has taken place during the interval, and the market closes weak at the following quotations:—

	New	Old	New	Old	New	Old
New	\$690	with allow'ce of 1 to 2 cts.				
Old (2 to 4 yrs.)	\$700	"	1 to 1½ "			
" (5 to 7 yrs.)	\$710	"	0 to 1½ "			
Persian.—This drug also has been neglected during the period under review. Rates are lower, Oily being quoted at \$730 to \$780 and Paper Wrapped at \$760 to \$820 according to quality. To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—						
New Patna	1,080	chests.				
Old Patna	1,820	"				
New Benares	230	"				
Old Benares	1,280	"				
Malwa	1,200	"				
Persian	1,000	"				

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1895.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Feb. 28	800	770	770	750	690	700/710
Mar. 1	785	760	760	740	690	700/710
Mar. 2	785	750	745	730	690	700/710
Mar. 3	785	750	745	730	690	700/710
Mar. 4	780	745	745	730	690	700/710
Mar. 5	775	740	740	720	690	700/710

RICE.
HONGKONG, 5th March.—The demand from Canton has continued, but otherwise the market has been dull. Prices are unchanged. Closing quotations are:—

	per picul
Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.08 to 2.10
Round, good quality	2.28 to 2.30
Long	2.37 to 2.40
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2	2.14 to 2.16
Garden, No. 1	2.48 to 2.51
Siam White	2.92 to 2.95
Fine Cargo	3.17 to 3.20

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 5th March.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—Bombay Yarn.—25 bales No. 8 at \$63, 620 bales No. 10 at \$69.50 to \$73.50, 295 bales No. 10 at \$68.50 to \$73, 50 bales No. 16 at \$75, 610 bales No. 20 at \$79.50 to \$83, 10 bales No. 22/24, Red Fuk at \$10.5. Grey Shirtings.—500 pieces 10 lbs. tag at \$3.62. White Shirtings.—500 pieces Gold Elephant at \$3.35, 300 M.H. at \$5, 900 O.O.O. Chop at \$5. White Balgarnie 750 pieces Red Dragon at \$3, 400 pieces Yellow Dragon at \$2.90. Drills.—1,000 pieces 15 lbs. 2 S words at \$4.20

METALS.—Iron.—1,680 piculs Old Horse Shoes at \$2.25, 65 piculs Old Wire Ropes at \$2.60. Yellow Metal.—30 cases Vision at \$26, 35 cases Muntz at \$26.20 to \$26.50. Tin.—150 slabs Siam at \$36.70, 300 slabs Fung Chai at \$36.70 to \$36.80. Tinplates.—100 cases at \$6. Spelter.—50 kegs at \$11.25. Quicksilver.—140 flasks at \$118.25 to \$118.50.

COTTON YARN. per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20 \$62.00 to \$87.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24 96.00 to 100.00
" 22 to 24 101.00 to 105.00
" 28 to 32 108.00 to 114.00
" 38 to 42 116.00 to 125.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS. per piece
Grey Shirtings—6lbs 1.40 to 1.50
7lbs 1.85 to 2.05
8.4 lbs. 2.40 to 3.10
9 to 10 lbs. 3.25 to 3.60
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. 2.10 to 2.30
58 to 60 " 2.60 to 3.10
64 to 66 " 3.20 to 3.60
Fine 3.90 to 6.20
Book-folds 3.50 to 5.20
Victoria Lawns—12 yards 0.60 to 1.35
T. Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y. 1.40 to 1.50
7lbs. (32 ") 1.80 to 1.90
6lbs. (32 ") Mexs. 1.60 to 1.70
7lbs. (32 ") 2.05 to 2.25
8 to 8.4 lbs. (36 in.) 2.20 to 2.90
Drills, English—40 yds., 13 1/4 to 4lbs 3.25 to 4.20

FANCY COTTONS
Turkey Red Shirtings—1 1/2 to 5lbs. 1.30 to 2.70
Brocades—Dyed 3.90 to 4.95
Dammasks 0.13 to 0.17
Chintzes—Assorted 0.07 to 0.12
Velvets—Black, 22 in. 0.21 to 0.32
Velveteens—18 in. 0.18 to 0.24

WOOLLENS
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.55 to 0.90
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops. 0.55 to 0.85
German 0.95 to 1.10
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths. 1.20 to 2.60

LONG ELLS.—Scarlet 6.50 to 7.80
Assorted 6.60 to 7.90
Camlets—Assorted 14.00 to 29.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted 13.50 to 21.00
Orleans—Plain 3.70 to 4.90

Blankets.—8 to 12lbs. 4.50 to 9.00

METALS. per picul
Iron—Nail Rod 3.25 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar 3.20 to 3.25
Swedish Bar 4.35 to —
Small Round Rod 3.50 to —
Hoop 4.60 to —
Old Wire Rope 3.00 to —
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop 6.55 to 6.60

Yellow M'tal.—Muntz, 14/28 oz. 26.00 to 26.25
Vivian's, 16/32 oz. 25.75 to —
Elliot's, 16/28 oz. 25.50 to —
Japan Copper 24.50 to —
Tin 36.00 to 36.50

Tin-Plates. 6.00 to —
Steel 5.50 to —

SUNDRIES AND COALS. per picul
Quicksilver 119.00 to —

Window Glass per bhx 3.20 to —
Kerosene Oil per 10-gal. case 1.75 to —

SHANGHAI, 28th February.—(From Mr. G. W. Noel's report.)—Business remains in *status quo* and notwithstanding the determination of the steamer companies to despatch the Tientsin boats on the morning of the 3rd proximo, buying has been at a standstill, the few trifling transactions that have taken place being for Ningpo and the river markets. Nevertheless it is anticipated that 9/10,000 packages of Piece Goods and 4/5,000 bales of Yarn will be despatched in the first sailings, by far the greater part of which has been cleared and waiting for shipment the last two months, so that the rush for delivery, usually experienced by importers, has been almost entirely absent this year. Although the earlier purchases were comparatively cheap their cost will be enhanced by an unexpected rise in freights, and also extra insurance premia to cover "war risk;" the latter, however, cannot be very heavy, as it is clearly understood that the Japanese have expressed their intention of avoiding, as far as practicable, the ordinary routes of foreign trade. The Peiho has been free from ice for two or three days already, so there will be nothing to prevent the steamers under foreign flags reaching Tientsin, the only question being how the goods will gain access into the surrounding country, the usual means of conveyance, boats and carts, being largely repositioned by the military authorities. Private transactions have been on a very small scale throughout the interval, and never amounting to more than a few packages at a time, but the delivery of previous purchases continues to go on satisfactory, and steady to firm prices have been paid at the auctions, chiefly to meet the Ningpo and up-river demand, though the Tientsin dealers took a few. Forward business has been confined to a few indents for dyed and printed goods, and there is still a good enquiry for 11-lbs. Shirtings for early delivery, which it is difficult to get in Manchester for these, manufacturers being fully engaged, but for most other makes the market there is dull and dropping. Yarns are quoted at almost unprecedentedly low prices.

Metals.—(From Mr. Alex. Bickford's report.)—1st March:—Quietness still characterises this market. Lead has been taken in fair quantities for the river ports and remains steady at quotations, but Iron is weak all round and will remain so until trade with the North has resumed. 100 tons Pig Iron were taken up for Formosa. Sales of Nailrod and Bar Iron on the "spot" and for the river ports do not come up to much. Tin in slabs and Mild Steel meet with a fairly good demand. Contracts reported during the week are:—500 boxes Bamboo Steel; 200 tons old Scrap Iron; 70 tons new Bar Iron, at private terms, and 10 tons old Chains at Tls. 2.52 1/2.

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 5th March.—With the exception of a fairly large business in Steamboats we have nothing of importance to report. The market has ruled steady and rates have continued firm.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai.—Small sales have been effected at 145 and 144 per cent. prem. for cash and at 148 and 153 per cent. prem. for delivery in April and June; market closes steady at quotation. Nationals after a long period of inaction have changed hands at \$18, \$18 1/2, \$19, \$20, and \$21, closing firm at latter rate.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders have continued to rule firm with small sales at \$65, and more shares are wanted at the rate. North Chinas, Unions, and Cantons have changed hands at quotations. Straits have declined without sales to \$23 with sellers.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Further small sales of both Hongkongs and Chinas at quotations is all we have to report.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton, and Macao, on rumours of an arrangement having been made with the opposition Chinese boats on the line, gradually rose with large sales at \$26 1/2, \$27, and \$27 1/2, to \$28, at which latter rate many shares changed hands. At time of writing, owing to the expectation that the agreement will not be concluded immediately, the market is somewhat weaker and shares can be obtained at \$28 and probably at \$27.75. Indo-Chinas have been imported from the North at \$37. Douglas's upon the declaration of an interim dividend of \$5 per cent. rose to \$54 with sales at that and at \$52, \$52 1/2, and \$53. Market closes with sellers at \$54. China Mutual preferences are enquired for at £7.

REFINERIES.—Continue totally neglected.

MINING.—Punjoms have ruled weak and neglected at \$6; small sales are reported at \$6 10. Balmorals have improved their position with sales at \$4.50, \$4.60, and 4.75. Jelebus and Raubs are neglected and weak at quotations.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Docks have been the medium of small speculative investments at \$82 and \$83, closing steady at latter rate. Lands have ruled firm and in demand at \$52 1/2 and \$53, at which rates shares have changed hands. Kowloon Wharfs have found further buyers at \$36, and sales of West Points are reported at \$5. Watsons have found buyers at \$9 1/2, and more shares could be placed at that rate. Fenwicks have changed hands at \$15 ex div., and Green Island at \$5. Dairies have found further buyers at \$4.25, and close steady at that.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		[& sellers]
Hongkong & S'hai.	\$125	14 1/2 p. ct. pm., sales
China, Japan, &c...	\$25.0	nom.
Do., Founders.....	£1	nom.
Nat. Bank of Ch.		
B. Shares.....	£8	\$21, buyers
Foun. Shares.	£1	n. m.
Brown & Co., H. G...	\$50	6, sellers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$1	2
China Borneo	\$55	nom.
China Sugar	\$100	\$150, sellers
Chinese Loan '86 E. Tls.	25	11 p. ct. pm.
Dakin, Cruicks'k & Co.	\$5	\$1
Dairy Farm Co.	\$10	4.25, sales
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	15, ex div.
Green Island Cement	\$0	5, sales
H. Brick & Cement.	\$12.50	4, s. llers
H. & C. Bakery	\$5	36
Hongkong & C. Gas.	£0	\$125, buyers
Hongkong Electric...	\$8	\$4.75
H. H. L. Tramways.	\$100	6, sales
Hongkong Ice.....	\$25	\$76, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	36, sales & sellers
Hongkong Rope.....	\$50	\$15, buyers
H. & W. Dock.....	\$125	83 p. ct. pm., sales
Hotels—		
Hongkong Hotel...	\$50	9, buyers
Shameen	\$20	4
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	157 1/2, sales & buyers
China Fire	\$20	77, sales
China Traders' ...	\$5	65, sales & buyers
Hongkong Fire ...	\$50	\$190, sales & sellers
North-China	£5	Tls. 210, sales
Straits Marine.....	\$0	23
Union	\$5	\$150, sales
Yangtze	\$60	90
Land & Building—		
H. Land Investm't	\$50	\$52 1/2, sales & buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	8
Humphreys Estate	\$10	10 1/2
West Point Buildg.	\$40	\$15, sales
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$48, sellers
Mining—		
New Balmoral.....	\$3	\$4.75, sales & sellers
Charbonnages.....	\$131.58	\$75, sellers
Jelebu	\$5	\$4.40, sales & sellers
Punjom	\$3 1/2	\$6, sales & sellers
Do. (Preference)	\$1	\$1.75, sales
Raubs	13s. 10d	\$4 10, sellers
Steamship Coys.—		
China & Manila ...	\$50	\$65, sellers
Douglas S. S. Co...	\$50	\$54, sale & sellers
H., Canton, & M...	\$20	\$28, sales & sellers
Indo-China S. N...	£10	\$37, sales
W'chai Wareh'se Co.	\$37 1/2	\$37 1/2
Watson & Co., A. S...	\$10	\$9.50, sales & buyers

CHATER & VERNON, Share Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 1st March.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s report.)—Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Shares were sold yesterday at 145 per cent. premium, at which the market closes steady. Shanghai Tug Boat shares were placed at Tls. 122 1/2, Tls. 125, and Tls. 123 1/2. Indo-Chinas have been sold at Tls. 23 and Tls. 26 1/2. Shares in the China Mutual S. N. shares changed hands, Preference at Tls. 52.20, and Ordinary with £5 paid up at Tls. 6. There are buyers at these rates. Hongkong, Canton, & Macao Steamboat shares were sold to Hongkong at \$26 and \$26 1/2. Douglas Steamship shares are offering at \$53. Docks.—Shares in Boyd & Co. were placed at Tls. 150, and in S. C. Farnham & Co. at Tls. 130. Marine Insurance.—China Traders shares have changed hands at \$66, North-Chinas at Tls. 207 1/2, Unions at \$145 and \$150, and Yangtszes at \$90. North-Chinas are offering at Tls. 207 1/2. Fire Insurance.—Hongkongs have been placed, from Hongkong, at \$18 1/2, and Chinas have changed hands locally at \$78 and \$77 en dividend. Wharfs.—Hongkong and Kowloon shares have been sold, from Hongkong, at \$36.

There are more offering. Mining.—Jebeu M. and T. shares were placed, from Hongkong, at \$44. Miscellaneous.—A Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco share was sold at Tls. 450. Shanghai-Lankat shares were placed at Tls. 95 and Tls. 100. Loans.—Shanghai Land Investment 6 per cent. Debentures were placed at Tls. 100, plus the accrued interest. Quotations are:—

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. 145 per cent. prem.

Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited.

Nominal.

Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, Founders.—Nominal.

National Bank of China, Ltd., A.—Nominal.

National Bank of China, Ltd., B.—\$184.

National Bank of China, Ltd., Founders.—Nom.

Shanghai Tugboat Co., Ltd.—Tls. 123½ per sh.

Indo-China Steam N. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 26½ per sh.

China Mutual S. N. Co.—£52 per share.

Taku Tug & Lighter Co., Ltd.—T. Tls. 60 per sh. Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co. \$26 per share.

Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd.—\$53 per share.

Shanghai Dock Co.—Tls. 550 per share.

Boyd & Co., Ltd., Founders.—Tls. 300 per share.

Boyd & Co., Limited.—Tls. 150 per share.

S. C. Farnham & Co.—Tls. 130 per share.

Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.—83 per cent. premium.

China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$66 per share.

North China Insurance Co., Ltd.—Tls. 207½ per share.

Union Ins. Society of Canton, Ltd.—\$150 per share.

Yangtze Insee. Assocn., Ltd.—\$90 per share.

Canton Insurance Office, Ltd.—\$155 per share.

Straits Insurance Co., Limited.—\$25 per share.

Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$188 per sh.

China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$83 per share.

Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.—Tls. 280 per share.

Birt's Wharf Hide-curing and Wool-cleaning Company.—Tls. 37 per share.

Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited.—\$36 per share.

Sheridan Consolidated Mining and Milling Company, Limited.—Tls. 1 per share.

Punjom Mining Co., Ltd.—\$6 per share.

Punjom Mining Co., Ltd., pref. shares—\$1½ per share.

Jebeu Mining & Trading Co., Ltd.—\$4½ per sh.

Baub Australian Gold Min. Co., Ltd.—\$4.15 p. sh.

Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 146½ per share.

Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 130 per sh.

Shanghai Gas Co.—Tls. 200 per share.

Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd.—\$4 per share.

Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.—Tls. 172½ p. sh.

Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ltd.—Tls. 30 p. sh.

China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$150 per sh.

Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$48 per share.

Hall & Holtz, Ltd.—\$16 per share.

Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd.—Tls. 34.80 per share.

Hongkong Land Invest. & A. Co., Ltd.—\$52 per sh.

J. Llewellyn & Co., Limited.—\$37½ per share.

Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.—Tls. 33½ per sh.

Major Brothers, Limited.—Tls. 25 per share.

Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co.—Tls. 410 p. sh.

Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd.—Tls. 100 per share.

Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd., Founders.—Nominal.

Shanghai Ice Company—Tls. 117½ per share.

A. S. Watson & Co., Limited.—\$94 per share.

L'Hotel des Colonies—Tls. 20.

China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company Debentures.—Nominal.

Lyceum Theatre Debentures.—Tls. 12.

Chinese Imp. Gov. Loan, 1886, E.—Tls. 250 (a).

Shanghai Municipal Debentures.—Tls. 100 (a).

Shanghai Land Investment Company Debentures.—Tls. 100 (a).

Shanghai Land Investment Company Debentures.—Tls. 94.

(a) Exclusive of accrued interest.

TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 1st March.—(From Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report).—We have no improvement to report as regards export business homewards, and there seems to be but little inducement for steamers to take the berth for London, while for New York there is hardly anything offering beyond a few small shipments, which the regular supply of tonnage is more than sufficient for. There is likewise little offering for sailers from here, but after the trade with northern ports is resumed once more, the first steamers being advertised to leave here on the 3rd inst. for Tientsin, business probably will improve, and exports present a more cheerful appearance. Rates of freight are:—Shanghai to London, P. & O. S. N. Co., O. S. S. Co., Ben Line, C. M. S. N. Co., Glen Line, Shire Line 40s. per ton general cargo; 45s. waste silk; 50s. tea; Shanghai to Northern Continental ports 42s. 6d. per ton general cargo; 45s. waste silk. Above rates are

subject to a deferred return, as per Conference circular. Shanghai to London Shell Line 40s. or less 10 per cent.; Shanghai to Hamburg 35s.; Shanghai to New York 44s. Shanghai to New York direct via London 50s. tea and general cargo; Shanghai to New York sailer 23s. Shanghai to Havre direct—General cargo per ton of 40 cubic feet 37s. 6d. net; 20 cwt. 45s. net. Shanghai to Genoa and Marseilles—General cargo per ton of 40 cubic feet 37s. 6d. net; 20 cwt. 45s.; Chefoo to Swatow nothing doing; Chinkiang to Canton, 18 candareens; Wuhu to Canton and Swatow nothing doing; Moji to Shanghai \$1.60 per ton coal; Nagasaki to Shanghai \$1.40 per ton coal. Settlements during the fortnight:—Björg, Norwegian steamer, 434 tons register, 6 months, optional 6 months \$4,000 per month. Progress, Norwegian steamer, 1,002 tons register, 6 months, optional 6 months, \$6,500 per month. Tordenskjold, Norwegian steamer, 904 tons register, Moji to Chefoo, private terms. Kiel, Norwegian steamer, 833 tons register, Moji to Shanghai, 4 trips at \$1.60 per ton coal. Albert, Norwegian steamer, 545 tons register, Nagasaki to Shanghai in full \$1,050. Disengaged vessel in port.—Darra, British barque, 999 tons register.

TUESDAY, 5th March. EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/11½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 30 day's sight	—
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/0
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/0½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.47
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.52
ON GERMANY.—	
On Demand	1.99
ON NEW YORK.—	
Banks Bills, on demand	47½
Credits, 60 day's sight	49½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	181½
Bank, on demand	181½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	181½
Bank, on demand	181½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Banks, at sight	71½
Private, 30 day's sight	72½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	par.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	17 % pm., nom.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	par.
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$10
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	51 50

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR LONDON.—Malacca (str.), Myrmidon (str.), Rohilla (str.), Aden (str.), Carmarthenshire (str.).
FOR HAVRE and HAMBURG.—Hertha (str.).
FOR AMSTERDAM.—Oceanic (str.).
FOR BREMEN.—Prinz Heinrich (str.).
FOR VANCOUVER.—Empress of Japan (str.).
FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—Sikh (str.).
FOR SAN FRANCISCO.—Tillie E. Starbuck, City of Rio (str.), Coptic (str.), Queen Margaret.
FOR NEW YORK.—Monmouthshire (str.), St. David, Sintram, Lucy A. Nickels.
FOR AUSTRALIA.—Catterthun (str.).

SHIPPING

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

February—
28, Moldava, British str., from Moji.
28, Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Saigon.
28, Ask, Danish str., from Haiphong.

March—
1, Bormida, Italian str., from Bombay.
1, Cheangchew, British str., from Singapore.
1, Mohican, Amr. bark, from Honolulu.
1, Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.
1, Gerard C. Tabey, Amr. sh., from N. York.
1, Fushun, British str., from Canton.
1, Lifoo, German str., from Canton.
1, Tailee, German str., from Deli.
1, Taisang, British str., from Canton.
1, M. Jebesen, German str., from Haiphong.
2, Taichow, British str., from Bangkok.
2, Rio, German str., from Saigon.
2, Triumph, German str., from Pakhoi.
2, Kwanglee, British str., from Shanghai.
2, Nanyang, German str., from Canton.
2, Devawongse, British str., from Bangkok.
2, Continental, Dutch steamer, from Manila.
2, Vsadnik, Russian torpedo-cruiser, from Saigon.

2, Gaydameak, Russian g.-bt., from Saigon.
2, Reina Cristina, Spanish cr., from Manila.
2, Geo. R. Skolfeld, Amr. sh., from N. castle.
2, Bygdo, Norw. str., from Chinkiang.
2, Doris, German str., from Moji.
2, Japan, British str., from Shanghai.
2, Prinz Heinrich, Fr. str., from Shanghai.
2, Tellus, Norwegian str., from Probolinggo.
3, Azamor, British str., from Singapore.
3, Decima, German str., from Port Wallut.
3, Fokien, British str., from Swatow.
3, Hertha, German str., from Kobe.
3, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
3, Kungping, British str., from Shanghai.
3, Lyeemoon, German str., from Shanghai.
3, Spondilus, British str., from Batoum.
3, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
3, Kwongmo, British str., from Amoy.
3, Marie Jebesen, Ger. str., from Sourabaya.
3, Siam, British str., from Bangkok.
4, Woosung, British str., from Canton.
4, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
4, Peru, Amr. str., from San Francisco.
4, Ernest Simons Fr. str., from Shanghai.
4, Orono, British str., from Saigon.
4, Whampoa, British str., from Chinkiang.
4, Riversdale, British str., from Moji.
4, Asloun, British str., from Saigon.
5, Choysang, British str., from Cwato.
5, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
5, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
5, Chowfa, British str., from Bangkok.
5, Amigo, German str., from Saigon.
5, Catherine Apcar, Brit. str., from Calcutta.
5, Martha, German str., from Takow.
5, Redpole, British g.-bt., from Shanghai.

February— DEPARTURES.

28, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
28, Activ, Danish str., for Hoihow.
28, Belgic, British str., for San Francisco.
28, Chiynen, British str., for Shanghai.
28, Kaiser-i-Hind, British str., for Europe.
28, Kwongsang, British str., for Shanghai.
28, Mongkut, British str., for Bangkok.
28, Produce, British str., for Nagasaki.
28, Tacoma, British str., for Tacoma.
28, Toyi, German str., for Shanghai.

March—

1, Glenfalloch, British str., for New York.
1, Namoa, British str., for Swatow.
1, Dardanus, British str., for Amoy.
1, Isleworth, British str., for Iloilo.
1, Propontia, British str., for Singapore.
1, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
2, Beatrice, British str., for Saigon.
2, Oceana, German str., for Yokohama.
2, Castilla, Spanish cruiser, for Manila.
2, Ask, Danish str., for Hoihow.
2, Chunshan, British str., for Swatow.
2, Fushun, British str., for Shanghai.
2, Lifoo, German str., for Shanghai.
2, Machew, British str., for Bangkok.
2, Phra C. Klao, British str., for Amoy.
2, Taisang, British str., for Shanghai.
2, Verona, British str., for Yokohama.
3, Albingia, British str., for Amoy.
3, Bygdo, Norw. str., for Canton.
3, Cheangchew, British str., for Swatow.
3, Doris, German str., for Canton.
3, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
3, Kwanglee, British str., for Canton.
3, Moldava, British str., for Taiwanfoo.
3, Strathavon, British str., for Saigon.
3, Strathcarron, British str., for Kobe.
4, Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.
4, Kungping, British str., for Canton.
4, Lyeemoon, German str., for Canton.
4, Nanyang, German str., for Shanghai.
4, Tsinan, British str., for Australia.
5, Donar, German str., for Saigon.
5, Fokien, British str., for Swatow.
5, Mich. Jebesen, German str., for Haiphong.
5, Tailee, German str., for Swatow.
5, Choysang, British str., for Canton.
5, Japan, British str., for London.
5, Kutsang, British str., for Calcutta.
5, Martha, German str., for Canton.
5, Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
5, Whampoa, British str., for Canton.
5, Woosung, British str., for Shanghai.

NOTICE.

WE have Established Ourselves as Merchants in Hongkong under the style of "JEBSEN & CO." JACOB JEBSEN. HEINRICH JESSEN. Office Praya Central. Hongkong, 1st March, 1895. [52]